

Talks depend on Israel — Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) — A resumption of peace talks with Israel depends on the Jewish state changing its policy to respect the principle of land-for-peace, Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salman said Sunday.

"When the Israeli government changes its hostile attitude towards peace and respects the basis of the peace process ... such as the principle of trading land-for-peace, the way will be open for talks," Mr. Salman said. The minister told Syrian journalists there had been an "increase in tension" in the region after right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu took office as Israeli prime minister in June.

"A change in government does not exempt states from respecting international norms, as the Israeli cabinet has tried to do since it came to power," he said.

THE JORDANIAN PRESS FOUNDATION
SERIALS DIVISION

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Volume 21 Number 6309

AMMAN MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 1996, RABI II 11, 1417

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Prime minister presents blueprint for economic development and growth

Kabariti outlines moves aimed at addressing poverty, unemployment, encouraging production and exports and proposed legislation to facilitate capital investment

By Ghalia Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Sunday that the government was determined to proceed with economic reforms and announced a series of measures the government will adopt to improve the Kingdom's economic performance.

The prime minister said the proposed measures would bring about social security to all sectors of society and help the private sector through improving the investment environment and cutting down bureaucratic procedures.

He also said that other measures would be taken soon to improve the performance of the Customs Department, encourage exports and help the national industry.

"The economic imbalances that prevailed in the past have partly led to lopsided development because, despite the sincere efforts of all, pockets of poverty still prevail and unemployment stands at 15 per cent," he told a gathering of businessmen and industrialists.

But, he added, comprehensive development cannot be achieved overnight. The government had started a comprehensive programme to deal with the problems of poverty and unemployment and reducing their impact on the less-privileged people in the transitional period.

The government will soon cancel customs duties on 492 capital imports to help increase in productivity and provide new job opportunities, Mr. Kabariti told the gathering at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

Through these measures, the prime minister said, "the government aims at building a strong economy so that all people will have a dignified life and be able to participate in the economic and political life of the country."

Despite the limited resources which "put us in front of difficult choices," rationality and pragmatism in dealing with the problems facing the country is the road to success, he said.

Mr. Kabariti said the government was preparing



Abdul Karim Kabariti

several new laws that will help jump-start the economy and lead to high economic productivity and growth whose "tangible benefits" will be felt by all sectors of the society.

Mr. Kabariti said the measures aimed at achieving economic reform include: Improving the investment environment through introducing new legislation and amending some of the existing ones. Those measures also include improving the efficiency of production-supporting services such as the banking sector

and simplifying governmental procedures leading to the reduction of cost on the consumer and proceeding with privatisation.

A plan, which the prime minister described as a "green lane" for exporters, will be introduced to help Jordanian exporters to boost their competitive edge on the international level.

Under the plan, products which will be imported as input to export-oriented industries will be exempted from time-consuming customs inspections, he said.

He added that customs on these inputs will be collected based on documents presented by the importers. These products will be cleared immediately upon arrival.

"Economic development is very much linked to a progressive and steady growth in Jordanian exports, and the national economy is in great need of such growth," said the prime minister.

"By implementing this new plan the cost related to the importation of raw material, machinery and other inputs for products

destined for exports will be reduced, and as such it will increase the competitive edge of our exports," he added.

The introduction of "the green lane" plan for exporters will start on Sept. 15, Mr. Kabariti said.

The prime minister said that accepting documents of product classification from foreign suppliers will be another step to facilitate procedures for importers to pay customs duties.

International companies certified by the government will inspect the imported products in the country of origin or the country of shipping and prepare the necessary documents.

"By these steps the government would be removing most of the barriers and procedures hindering the flow of trade," Mr. Kabariti said.

Mr. Kabariti said the government will present a number of economic legislation this year. These include:

— A competition and anti-monopoly law. A first draft of the law is ready.

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His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda in Amman on Sunday (photo by Yusef Allan)

Japan and Jordan share 'almost identical views' on peace, regional issues

King Hussein, Crown Prince and Kabariti hold talks with Japanese foreign minister

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda on Sunday discussed the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations and reviewed means to revitalise the troubled Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

The two countries share "almost identical views" on the issues discussed and believe in the need to advance the peace process on the basis of agreements already reached among the parties concerned, said the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Takayuki Kimura.

Mr. Ikeda paid tribute to the role played by Jordan in Middle East peacemaking and voiced appreciation of the moderation that the Kingdom has consistently displayed throughout the years and its "highly positive and constructive contribution to peace in the region."

The Japanese foreign minister, who left for Israel and the Palestinian territories later in the day, was carrying with him "the wise counsel of His Majesty King Hussein to the parties across the River Jordan,"

said Mr. Kimura.

Asked whether Jordan requested any specific Jordanian move to advance the peace process, Mr. Kimura said Japan did not feel it was necessary since "Jordan has already done enough and its policies and approach are well-known."

Mr. Ikeda informed His Majesty of the high regard with which Japan considers his courageous policies and very positive role in advancing the peace process," Mr. Kimura told the Jordan Times.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said King Hussein voiced appreciation of Japan's role in supporting the peace process, through helping regional economies and development projects.

The King thanked Japan for its support for Jordan's economy and for its generous contribution to projects in the Kingdom, Petra said.

Mr. Ikeda praised King Hussein's efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East region, and voiced his country's readiness to support the Jordanian economy, the agency said.

Ambassador Kimura said Mr. Ikeda extended an invitation to King Hussein to visit Japan. A date for the visit will be set later.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khawaneh, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khalid Madadha and Ambassador Kimura.

Prince Hassan held a separate round of talks over lunch with Mr. Ikeda and reviewed issues related to Palestinian refugees as well as Jordan's economic adjustment programme and industrial policy.

The Crown Prince said the economic adjustment programme aimed at securing social justice for all categories of people, including the refugees. Prince Hassan stressed the need for continuing the exchange of expertise with Japan, particularly in the areas of food production and light industries. The meeting was attended by Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Kimura.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Ikeda exchanged notes under which the Japanese government will give Jordan a \$7

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PNA closes 3 offices in Arab East Jerusalem; Weizman to meet Arafat

Occupied Jerusalem (Agencies) —

Palestinian authorities have closed down three East Jerusalem offices which Israel had demanded be closed as a condition for pursuing the peace process, Palestinian officials said Sunday.

The geography department in charge of monitoring Jewish settlement in the territories, the Palestinian youth and sports office and a statistics bureau have been closed on orders from Gaza, the headquarters of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), said a Palestinian official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Israel Radio also reported that the offices were closed down.

The Palestinian official said some of the offices' activities were being transferred to areas in the West Bank under Palestinian administrative control.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had insisted that the offices were involved in official business of the PNA in violation of past peace agreements which barred the PNA from operating in East Jerusalem.

When asked about the reported closure of the offices, on Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu said: "We have to verify just what is going on."

News that the offices had been closed came a day after Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said Israel had agreed to resume political negotiations on a permanent peace settlement by next week.

Mr. Netanyahu had also made the closure of the East Jerusalem offices one of his preconditions for pressing ahead with Israel's delayed partial army withdrawal from Hebron, the

last West Bank city still under Israeli occupation.

But officials said discussions within the government about the terms of the redeployment were continuing and no announcement on the move appears imminent.

The closed Palestinian youth and sports office operated out of Orient House, the unofficial Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in East Jerusalem, the maps department of the Palestinian geographic centre was set up in a nearby building and the statistics bureau was in Wadi Joz, another East Jerusalem neighbourhood.

The Palestinian official said the maps department would shift its operations to Abu Dis, an East Jerusalem suburb under PNA administrative control.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman said Sunday that he would meet Mr. Arafat by the end of the year to reassure the Palestinian leader of Israel's commitment to the peace process.

"Arafat is the only Palestinian leader who has signed an agreement with us in 100 years, he leads two million people and controls municipalities neighbouring our territory, it is normal that I meet with him," Mr. Weizman said after discussing his plans with Mr. Netanyahu.

"Our meeting will undoubtedly take place in 1996," he told reporters.

Mr. Weizman made the announcement only hours after a newspaper said the outspoken president had threatened to meet Mr. Arafat over Mr. Netanyahu's objections.

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Netanyahu 'planning' to meet Palestinian leader before Sept. 10

Occupied Jerusalem (Agencies) —

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat within two weeks, Israel Radio said on Sunday.

"As of now, President (Ezer) Weizman, Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai will meet within two weeks with Yasser Arafat," Israel Radio said.

Israel's state-run television said that Mr. Netanyahu would most likely meet Mr. Arafat before travelling to the United States on Sept. 10.

It said the meeting had been agreed upon during talks between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Mahmoud Abbas and Netanyahu adviser Dore Gold.

Two leading members of Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party demanded earlier Sunday that he meet immediately with Mr. Arafat and fulfill Israel's commitment to withdraw from most of Hebron.

"It is time to stop playing games," said Likud Member of Parliament Meir Shitrit in a blast at Mr. Netanyahu's reluctance to pursue the Palestinian peace process.

"The army should redeploy immediately in Hebron, because if it is possible to make peace (with the Palestinians) we have to do it now," he told Israel public radio.

He also called on Mr.

Netanyahu to abandon his refusal to meet Mr. Arafat.

"There is no justification for any more postponement. The prime minister should meet him at once, without delay," he said, adding that it was essential to resume negotiations on a final peace settlement with the Palestinians.

A second Likud leader and member of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee, Gideon Ezra, also called on Mr. Netanyahu to "show moderation towards the Palestinians so they can fulfill their commitments" under past peace agreements.

"It is possible today to make a gesture towards the Palestinians by beginning the redeployment from Hebron and transferring the civil administration building there to the Palestinians," he said.

Mr. Ezra joined Israeli opposition and Palestinian leaders in warning that the delay in respecting Israel's commitment on Hebron, today the last West Bank city not under Palestinian control, was fuelling Palestinian public anger, undermining the authority of Mr. Arafat and his autonomy government.

"If we take away Arafat's influence (over Palestinian society), he will not be able to fulfill his commitments, notably the battle against terrorism and the repression of Islamic militants," he said.

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38 more detainees released

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Authorities on Sunday released 38 more people detained after last week's riots in southern Jordan after it was found that they were not involved in the violent rampage against government and private property, police said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

On Saturday, Information Minister Marwan Muasher said 32 people were released after questioning found that they did not take part in the riots.

His Majesty King Hussein has said that only those who are found to have taken direct part in the riots or instigated the unrest would be sent to court and that others who simply participated in demonstrations would be released.

The State Security Court is expected to try those suspected of staging violence and instigating the riots.

The precise number of those detained after the two days of riots in Karak and several other towns was not available. Earlier reports put their number at 190, meaning that with the releases on Saturday and Sunday, those remaining in detention could be less than 130.

Informed sources said meanwhile that Majali, head of the Ansar Party, a left-of-centre party, and resident of Karak was released after three days of detention.

Among those remaining in detention include between 45 and 50 members of leftist political parties,

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Prince Talal is appointed head of National Security Council

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday appointing His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Muhammad as director of the National Security Council (NSC) at the Royal Court as of Sunday Aug. 25, 1996.



HRH Prince Talal

Prince Talal has served as His Majesty King Hussein's military secretary for the past five and half years.

Prince Talal replaces retired Major General Mustafa Qaisi, the former head of the General Intelligence Department, who resigned from his post as director of the NSC and advisor to the King.

In a letter to Gen. Qaisi, the King voiced appreciation of his efforts and services in the different posts he had assumed and described him as an example of loyalty and dedication to the nation's service.

"As you have requested to retire I hereby accept your request and reaffirm my confidence in you and my gratitude for your services to the nation, which I and your colleagues will continue to remember," said the King.

In his letter of resignation, Gen. Qaisi said he was honoured to serve

under the King's leadership all these years and took pride in his confidence and directives and guidance.

"Having served for 38 years under the Hashemite leadership I request to be relieved of my duties for health reasons but I declare that I will continue to serve as a soldier under the Hashemite Throne throughout the remaining years of my life," said Gen. Qaisi.

Gen. Qaisi noted in his letter of resignation that the NSC has gone a long way towards establishing itself as an institution.

"Positive steps have been taken towards institutionalising the NSC in terms of a general framework of its functions and its infrastructure of qualified cadres and has become ready for assuming the task which you have directed it to carry out," he wrote in his resignation letter.

TV (AFP) — Hundreds of prisoners have gone on hunger strike in a prison in the north of Jordan, demanding better conditions and the release of political prisoners. The strike is the latest in a series of protests by prisoners in the country. In the past, prisoners have demanded the release of political prisoners and the end of the military rule. The strike is being led by a group of prisoners who are demanding the release of political prisoners and the end of the military rule. The strike is being led by a group of prisoners who are demanding the release of political prisoners and the end of the military rule.

private visit to Morocco

AFP — Jordan's Prime Minister, Hani Al-Murayri, is scheduled to visit Morocco on Sunday. The visit is part of a series of diplomatic efforts by the Jordanian government to improve relations with its neighbors. The Prime Minister will meet with Moroccan officials and discuss issues of mutual interest. The visit is expected to be a success and will strengthen the ties between the two countries.

reference minister to visit China

AFP — Jordan's Minister of Planning, Hani Al-Murayri, is scheduled to visit China on Sunday. The visit is part of a series of diplomatic efforts by the Jordanian government to improve relations with its neighbors. The Minister will meet with Chinese officials and discuss issues of mutual interest. The visit is expected to be a success and will strengthen the ties between the two countries.

businessmen seek Iraq debt

AFP — A group of Jordanian businessmen are seeking the return of money that was loaned to Iraq by the Jordanian government. The businessmen claim that the money was never repaid and that they are now in financial difficulty. They are asking the Jordanian government to help them recover the money. The government has agreed to look into the matter and will take appropriate action.

Home News

Jordan, Egypt discuss future of relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nayef Qadi, Jordan's ambassador to Egypt and representative to the Cairo-based Arab League, Sunday reported to a parliamentary committee regarding relations between Jordan and Egypt stressing that the two countries hold similar views concerning issues of significance to the Arab nation.

Mr. Qadi told the Arab and International Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament that Jordan and Egypt agree on such substantive issues as: the question of a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the region, the support of Palestinian leadership as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the impetus to re-establish solidarity among Arab states.

The ambassador reviewed various issues facing the Arab League as well as relations between Jordan and Egypt, committee chairman Fawzi Toumeih said.

Dr. Toumeih quoted the ambassador as maintaining that "the Egyptian government is convinced that any international sanctions against Sudan would further harm that country while also damaging Egyptian interests and therefore Cairo is invested with halting measures against Khartoum."

Sudan is facing a UN Security Council air

embargo for failing to extradite three men suspected of attempting to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in June of last year.

The U.N. Security Council is discussing the possible suspension of all Sudan Airways international flights beginning in September unless the alleged militants are handed over to Egyptian authorities to stand trial.

In May of last year, the U.N. Council imposed diplomatic sanctions against Khartoum and threatened further measures should the Sudanese authorities fail to comply with its demands.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Sunday issued a statement condemning the Security Council resolutions and criticised the Egyptian government for failing to end its differences with Sudan without the intervention of the U.N.

Sudan repeatedly denounced the assassination attempt and claimed willingness to cooperate with the Egyptian government in the capture of the wanted men, said the statement.

The IAF accused the U.S. of instituting the embargo to perpetuate animosity among Arab countries and as a reprisal against Sudan for adopting Islamic rule.

Japan grants \$7m to reconstruct bridge

By P.V.Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan on Sunday granted Jordan \$7 million to reconstruct a bridge across the River Jordan connecting the Kingdom with Israel and also promised to consider a Jordanian request for assistance to its education and water sectors as well as broader help to the Kingdom's balance of payments.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda and Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti exchanged notes for the 771 million yen (around \$7 million) grant during a meeting they held Sunday morning.

The grant will be used to reconstruct the Sheikh Hussein bridge, the northern crossing point between Jordan and Israel, as well as access roads and terminal facilities.

Ken Shimanouchi, official spokesman for the Japanese foreign minister, told a press briefing that the grant will help build a four-lane bridge and all related terminal facilities "with the view to meeting an anticipated increase in traffic."

Mr. Shimanouchi said Japan's aim was to "make the dividends of peace obvious to all, in order to facilitate peace."

On the bilateral level, the spokesman said, Japan sought "to build political, economic, social and cultural relations" with Jordan.

Mr. Ikeda was briefed on Jordan's economic policies and fiscal measures as well as development efforts in various sectors by the concerned ministers during the meeting with Mr. Kabariti at the Prime Ministry.

In the human resources sector, Mr. Ikeda promised Japanese assistance to help Jordan build schools but did not make an immediate commitment in figures, according to sources.

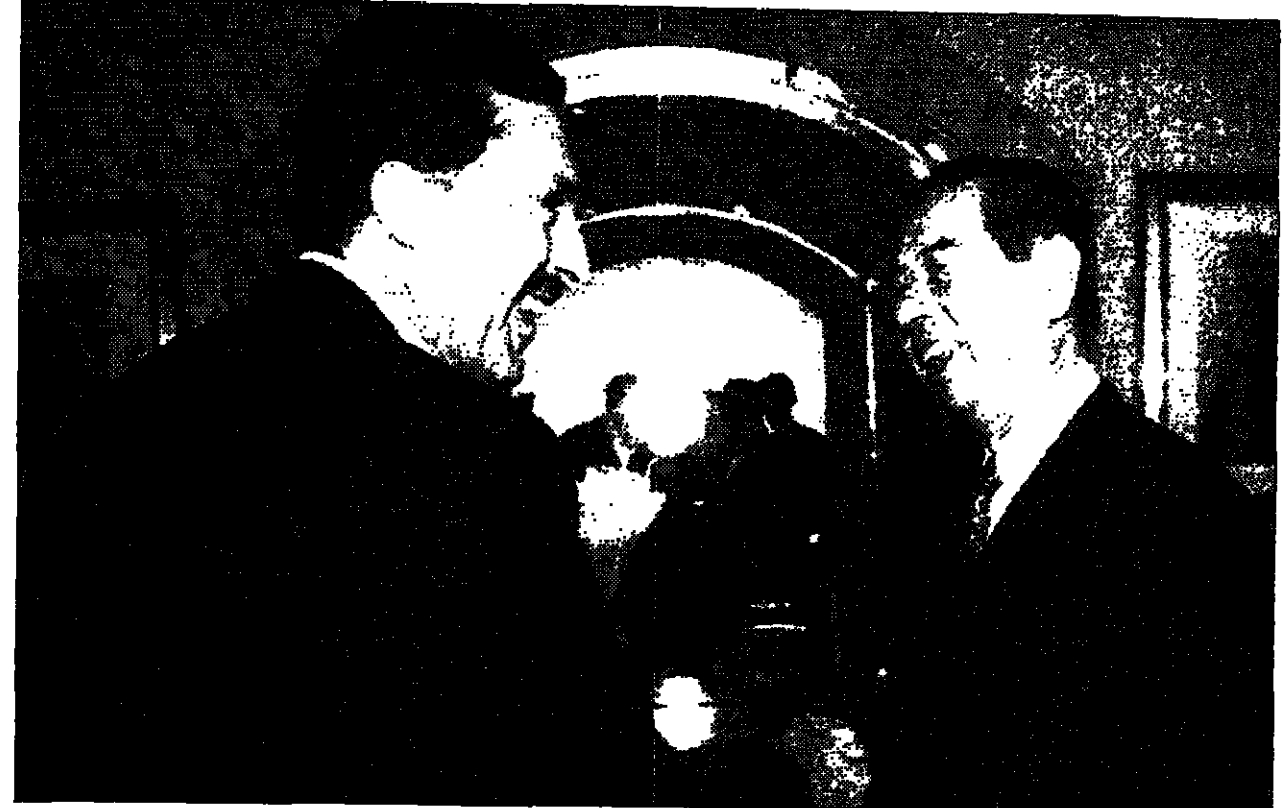
Jordan has requested \$60 million in Japanese aid for the second phase of the human resources development project and discussions are under way at experts level.

Also discussed was Japanese aid to help Jordan improve its water supply networks and Mr. Ikeda also indicated that assistance would be forthcoming in this fiscal year.

The amount of assistance is expected to be around \$15 million.

The two sides also discussed plans to rebuild the King Hussein Bridge which connects Jordan to the West Bank.

The Japanese side said any assistance from Tokyo for this project would have to wait until Israel and the Palestinians reach a final peace agreement under which the status of the West Bank is firmly established.



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Sunday welcomes Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda at the Prime Ministry (photo by Yousef Al Allan)

Mr. Ikeda also said his country would favourably consider extending further aid to Jordan to help the Kingdom's balance of payments.

Spokesman Shimanouchi said such assistance referred to the role that Japan played during a donors' meeting held in July last month which produced pledges of financial assistance to the Kingdom's balance of payments.

The prime minister also reaffirmed Jordan's determination to adhere to the economic restructuring programme agreed with the IMF.

Mr. Ikeda praised Jordan's economic performance and the government's determination to restructure the national economy on solid and strong bases, to ensure a steady economic growth.

Also reviewed during Sunday's meeting at the Prime Ministry was the progress of Japanese-financed projects in the transport and water sector in Jordan.

The meeting was attended by ministers of housing and public works, water and irrigation, planning, finance, and minister of state for foreign affairs.

On the Japanese side, the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying Mr. Ikeda and the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Takayuki Kimura.

Japan is the largest per capita contributor of aid to Jordan, having given the Kingdom \$33 million in outright grants for the fiscal year ending March 1996.

Tokyo also provided about \$340 million to Jordan during the same year, including the \$215 million to help the Kingdom's balance of payments and \$100 million to finance thermal power station at the Red Sea port of Aqaba.

Government to crack down on visa overstays

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Awad Khleifat Sunday said that authorities will immediately enforce existing laws and regulations concerning visitors and guest workers in the Kingdom.

He said that he will follow recommendations made to the government by a special ministerial committee dealing with foreigners' hiatus in the country.

Dr. Khleifat remarked that visitors to Jordan more often than not fail to heed the length of stay as determined by their respective visas adding that some change places of residence without informing designated authorities of their new locations.

Following said committee recommendations the government is now demanding that foreign visitors, with the exception of tourists and travellers in transit, upon arrival to the Kingdom inform border officers and if a subsequent change of residence occurs register such with the appropriate police departments within 48 hours, according to Dr. Khleifat who is also the ministerial committee chairman.

Any foreign visitor to Jordan wishing to stay longer than the two-week permit granted on arrival should submit a formal request to the local police stations, said the minister.

Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh Sunday said that guest workers, estimated at 300,000, should strictly abide by the recent regulations and must acquire work permits prior to arriving in the country, as well as report their place



Awad Khleifat

of residence when they begin work.

According to a 1973 law landlowners, hotels, companies and any other institution should report to local police, the employment or residence of any visitor from another country within 48 hours.

Dr. Shakhaneh spoke at a meeting with directors of employment and labour departments in the various governorates urging them to strictly implement these regulations.

The Minister of Interior said on Aug. 7 that the government intends to raise the annual fees for foreign work permits from JD 100 to JD 150 for Arab labourers and from JD 300 to JD 400 for non-Arab workers.

Dr. Khleifat on Sunday stressed that strict measures will be taken against violators of this law including possible expulsion with no right to re-entry.

Earlier this month, Dr. Khleifat was quoted as saying that out of the 300,000 foreign workers nearly 30,000 are unemployed but continue to reside in the country.

Yarmouk, Arab Banking Academy finalise contract

IRBID (J.T.) — Yarmouk University and the Arab Academy for Banking and Financial Studies Sunday signed a scientific and technical agreement designed to provide Jordanian and other Arab labour markets with human resource expertise in financial affairs.

The agreement provides for the two institutions to exchange teaching staff and lecturers, conduct joint studies and allow trainees from both institutions to attend one another's lectures.

In a statement to Jordan Television, Yarmouk University President Marwan Kamal who signed the deal, said that among other things the agreement provides for the Amman, based academy to provide seats for Yarmouk University's post-graduate students to study at the academy to obtain degrees.

He said that the agreement would contribute to the country's socio-economic development in general and the banking and financial sector in particular.

Academy President Mustafa Hudeib signed the agreement saying that the academy hopes to benefit from Yarmouk University's proficiency in the exchange.

Yarmouk University has now signed 75 scientific agreements with Arab and foreign institutions for scientific exchanges.

Science week to probe global, human resources

By Marian Nimry
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The fourth annual Jordanian Science Week kicks off Tuesday with a serious look at "Man and the Earth."

The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) in cooperation with the Jordan Armed Forces will host the science week between Aug. 27 and Sept. 3.

The event will focus on applications of global resource research projects, financed through the council during the period of 1996-2000, in terms of their potential economic implications and human resource requirements.

According to Khaled Shreideh, HCST assistant secretary-general for scientific and technical affairs, the annual science weeks are organised to work as a continuum with each other.

At a press conference yesterday, Nancy Bakeer, HCST assistant secretary-general, went on to emphasise the importance of research and development as "decisions based on solid hypotheses may have a small margin of error, while decisions based on faulty hypotheses are more likely to contain a large margin of error."

The science week will be convened in two stages.

The first three days starting on Aug. 27 will be held at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid under the title "Human Resources Towards Balance." It will discuss five studies and four scientific papers pertaining to human resources.

Some of the subjects dealt with in these papers are unemployment, training capabilities in the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the role of institutions in training and rehabilitating manpower.

Bus provided by the Armed Forces will pick up passengers at the Royal Cultural Centre and transport them to the university at 8 a.m. Wednesday Aug. 27.

The second stage will be held from Aug. 31-Sept. 3 at the Royal Cultural Centre under the title "Earth Resources Towards Integration." It will discuss eleven research projects financed by the HCST, over the implementation period 1996-2000, in terms of their objectives, methodologies, plan of implementation, progress and expected outcomes.

The projects deal with issues in the fields of mineral resources, water, energy, and environment.

"We, at the council, fund the research to solve problems. Once a piece of

research is done we convene a specialised seminar for all concerned parties that are involved from the scientific and technological communities," said Dr. Shreideh.

"We have now, through the last few years, found that the best way for a concentrated research effort is through group research," continued Dr. Shreideh. "If you apply to the council with a project as an individual and when you present it to us as a group of researchers and organisations, you will be accorded top priority."

The week will be inaugurated by HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

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38 more detainees released

(Continued from page 1)

prominent among them the pro-Iraq Arab Baath Socialist Party and the Jordan People's Democratic Party, which says at least 15 of its members have been arrested from various parts of the Kingdom.

Jordan has said that it had signed confessions that "some official parties in Iraq" were behind the unrest in the south on Aug. 16 and 17 following the increase in the price of bread.

Security officials have refused to reveal details of those arrested except that "all those found not to have taken part in violence will be released."

Among those held are five journalists, Fuad Hussein of Al Awasq daily newspaper and Al Bilad weekly publisher Nayef Tawara, on as yet unspecified charges, and Al Bilad chief editor Khaled Khasasbeh and reporters Taha Abu Reden and Rakan Saideh, charges against whom range from violating the Press and Publication Law and the Penal Code.

Netanyahu 'planning' to meet Palestinian leader

(Continued from page 1)

Yossi Sarid, a former minister and head of the left-wing Meretz Party, announced earlier Sunday that he had obtained the 30 votes in parliament needed to call a special session to debate the government's policy on Hebron.

Mr. Sarid said he would seek a vote of no-confidence against Mr. Netanyahu if he does not follow through with the redeployment.

Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing coalition has a 66-seat majority in the 120-member Knesset, Israel's legislature.

Saudi group to discuss agricultural exports

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-member Saudi technical team Tuesday will arrive on a several day visit for talks with officials regarding agricultural exports to Saudi Arabia. The Saudi team will discuss controls and measures to ensure that exported products are free from contaminants.

Development Fund provides JD 1,788,413

AMMAN (Petra) — The Development and Employment Fund (DEF) has provided JD 1,788,413 worth of loans during the first 7 months of this year to finance 318 projects directed toward providing 714 jobs, according to DEFD Director General Ali Jaddou' Qubaa'ah. The service sector gained the lion's share with 53.8 per cent of the total loans, followed by the industrial sector with 33.1 per cent.

Scientific Dental Day to include 287 dentists

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh will inaugurate the first Scientific Dental Day on Thursday, Aug. 29, organised by the Ministry of Health. The day includes scientific lectures from medical experts in both public and private practice. A total of 287 dentists working in 211 dental clinics all over the Kingdom will participate.

University acceptees to be announced today

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan Vice President for Administrative Affairs Walid Maani, who heads the university admission office, will hold a press conference today during which he will announce the names of admittees to various universities, including the Universities of Jordan, Yarmouk, Mutah, Science and Technology, Al Hashemieh and Al al Bait.

Jordan-Bahrain Committee to discuss economy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan-Bahrain Committee will meet Sept. 6 in Manama with ministers there. The three-day conference will be preceded by a preparatory encounter of experts in the field. The meeting will cover cooperation in the economic and commercial fields. Jordan and Bahrain signed a trade agreement in 1994.

A drop of blood means life

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Rotary Club is organising a blood donation campaign, in cooperation with other Rotary Clubs in Jordan Aug. 27. The campaign will use as its theme: "A drop of blood means life".

WHAT'S GOING ON

- FOLKLORE DANCES**
* Folklore dances by the Circassian Folkloric Troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- POETRY RECITAL**
* Recital of poems by Syrian poet Khalid Abu Khalid at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.
- AL AZRAQ FESTIVAL**
* Performance by the Jordanian Armed Forces Musical Band.
* Poetry recitals by Salman Al Shomari and Suleiman Oweis.
* Performances by Al Azraq and Taffieh bands of Popular Art.
* Book, handicraft, and plastic art exhibitions.
- EXHIBITIONS**
* Works by artist Abeer Abu Joudih at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 5.
* Abstract (plastic) art by Lina Hiri entitled "Relationship Between Man and Nature" at the Housing Bank complex gallery, until Aug. 31.
* Abstract (plastic) art by Jordanian artist Khalil Al Kofahi entitled "From Jordan... Man and Charming Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 29.
* "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Oct. 8.

Lebed to consult Moscow on Chechen peace agreement

NOVYE ATAGI, Russia (R) — Russian security supremo Alexander Lebed suddenly suspended talks with Chechen rebels Sunday and returned to Moscow for further consultations on a deal to end the 20-month old conflict.

Comments by Chechen spokesman Movladi Udogov suggested the two sides could be close to an agreement to bridge the gap between them on the key issue of Chechnya's status.

The talks, due to take place in the village of Novye Atagi with Chechen Chief-of-Staff Aslan Maskhadov, were delayed amid charges by the Russian military that Chechen rebels had violated a ceasefire agreement by seizing arms from Russian troops.

But Gen. Lebed said the delay was to allow him to seek legal advice and the authority of the Russian leadership before he could sign a political deal tackling the tricky issue of the future status of the rebel region.

Russian troops began pulling out from southern Chechnya Sunday under the ceasefire agreement, agreed Thursday by Gen. Lebed and Commander Maskhadov after some of the heaviest fighting in more than a year.

But in the capital Grozny, the commander of Russian Interior Ministry Forces in Chechnya, General Anatoly Shkirko, told Interfax News Agency he was delaying a pullout of troops there

because of the seizure of weapons from an armoured column.

Gen. Lebed told reporters before leaving for Moscow from the Russian base of Khankala near Grozny that he would discuss suggestions put forward by the rebels Saturday with President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

"I hope that the president will approve of my activities. I will return to the Chechen Republic to continue the negotiations with documents, impeccable from the legal point of view, in my hands," he said.

Chechen spokesman Udogov, speaking in Novye Atagi, 20 kilometres south of Grozny, said he was not too worried by Gen. Lebed's sudden departure.

"Lebed told the Chechen side yesterday that he needed to check a few details so that the agreement would not be attacked by the 'party of war'," Mr. Udogov said, referring to a mysterious group of unnamed hardliners blamed for the collapse of earlier peace efforts.

He told reporters Gen. Lebed had told them he had the authority to sign a deal, but agreed legal problems could have come up.

"Lebed's draft was not fully worked out yesterday. Some points need more correct legal formulations," he said.

Mr. Udogov said the issue of Chechnya's status would be resolved by a referendum, but it was not clear when it would take place or whether Gen. Lebed had agreed to this. Russia's constitution would have to be altered to change Chechnya's status.

"The question of status has been talked over a long time ago. It's a question of the principal of putting off the solution of the question," Mr. Udogov said.

"The issue of status will be decided in a referendum, by the free will of the Chechen people," he added.

Gen. Lebed was earlier quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency as saying that suggestions put forward by the separatists during talks Saturday needed to be looked at by experts in international law.

He did not give any details, the agency added.

Gen. Lebed and Commander Maskhadov have both said a compromise can be found between the rebels' demand for independence and Moscow's insistence the region remains within the Russian Federation.

Mr. Udogov said after talks Saturday that the two sides were close to a deal.

Sunday's meeting between Gen. Lebed and Commander Maskhadov was due to have begun at 10 a.m. (0600 GMT). It faced a last-minute hitch after the Russian military accused the rebels of seizing and disarming a Russian Interior Ministry armoured column in the Chechen capital, Grozny.

Mr. Udogov said at first that the delay was because Gen. Lebed was getting advice by telephone from "the highest leadership" Moscow, implying that he had been talking to Mr. Yeltsin.

But he later confirmed the seizure, saying it was carried out by a renegade group. "This group does not belong to the armed forces of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria," he said.

The commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, demanded that the separatist leadership return the weapons without delay, Interfax News Agency said.

Mr. Udogov later said all the weapons had been returned and that some members of the group which seized them had been arrested by the rebels.

"The Chechen side apologised officially to the Russian side and expressed the hope that provocations will not become a reason for the negotiations to be suspended," he said.

Interfax earlier quoted a representative of the federal forces as saying that the incident could upset the peace talks.

"If the separatist leadership does not fulfil the demands for the return of the seized weapons by the end of the day, it could seriously complicate Security Council Secretary A. Lebed's mission to find peaceful resolution of the Chechen conflict."



Chechen separatist chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov (left) and Russian army Major General Vyacheslav Ovchinnikov (right) address their troops during a ceremony outside Starye Atagi to allocate joint patrol groups to guard the regional capital Grozny. Russian troops and Chechen rebels are due to leave Grozny before the end of August (Renter photo)

Police inspector reportedly held in Belgian child sex scandal

BRUSSELS (AFP) — A police inspector has been held for questioning in the investigation into the kidnapping and sexual abuse of Belgian children by child rapist Marc Dutroux, two Belgian television channels reported Sunday.

He may be charged in connection with the scandal being uncovered after Mr. Dutroux's arrest on Aug. 13 and the subsequent release of two girls incarcerated in one of his houses in a suburb of the southern town of Charleroi, said RTL-TV.

The bodies of two other girls were later dug up from the garden of the same house in Marcinelle. Eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo who were kidnapped from their home town of Liege in June 1995 starved to death while Mr. Dutroux was in prison for theft, after suffering nine months of sexual abuse.

State television, RTBF said the inspector may be being questioned amid growing accusations that Mr. Dutroux was only able to escape arrest for so long because he had some kind of police protection.

Despite his previous convictions for paedophilia, he seemed to pass relatively unnoticed by police after his early release from prison in 1992 even though children continued to disappear.

Mr. Dutroux himself underwent a long interrogation overnight Saturday, the television said.

During his questioning he was confronted with Michael Diakostavanos, one of the other five suspects under arrest which include Mr. Dutroux's wife.

Two teenagers, An Marchal, 17, and Eefje Lambrechts, 19, are still missing and police have widened their investigations to search for them among a suspected Eastern European child sex network.

Meanwhile, the parents of Lejeune and Russo distanced themselves from bids by various groups to capitalise on the nation's outrage.

The move came after one Belgian organisation used the girls' names on a petition calling for paedophiles to be given non-commutable jail sentences, an appeal not supported by the two families.

They also "dissociated themselves from the short-term and badly-planned demonstrations such as Friday's one in Verviers."

The rally of 7,000 people in the eastern town broke up in disarray after organisers took the microphone to oppose bringing back the death penalty for paedophiles.

Lejeune and Russo's parents added they had not given any permission for funds to be collected in their daughters' names except through one bank account which they had specially opened.

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Ghali's election fight goes underground

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The fight over the reelection of U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has gone underground following a security council decision to call a temporary truce.

Security Council President Tono Eitel informed journalists Friday that the consensus within the 15-member council was that the issue of the secretary general's election should not be raised "before the ministerial week of the General Assembly."

The decision effectively puts off any discussion on the future of the 73-year-old Egyptian official until at least the beginning of October, with foreign ministers of the 185-nation U.N. General Assembly due to gather here from Sept. 23.

Washington, which is threatening to veto Dr. Ghali for a second term, had been campaigning among its Security Council partners to raise the issue now in order to allow new candidates to step forward.

After hearing Thursday of the results of Mr. Eitel's bilateral soundings, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright accused her partners of being "irresponsible" for seeking to delay the discussion.

According to one Western diplomat present, she added that "while she loved her

colleagues dearly, she had no intention of spending New Year's Eve in the company of fourteen men," referring to her Security Council partners.

Dr. Ghali's current five-year mandate expires on December 31 and the Security Council casts the decisive vote on the secretary general's post.

Washington argues that it will take time to find a suitable candidate to ensure that the new secretary general is committed to reforming and streamlining the world body for the 21st century.

Some Western diplomats say that Dr. Ghali's refusal to step down in the face of the U.S. veto threat is only weakening the institution at a time when the United Nations is already in dire financial straits.

However, Dr. Ghali's spokesman, Ahmad Fawzi, denied that Dr. Ghali was now a "lame duck," saying that "none of this is deterring him. He intends to pursue his mandate with vigor until the last day."

While officially saying that it is not up to him to campaign, but that the member states must decide on his future, Dr. Ghali nevertheless launched a veiled attack on the United States in a speech to a U.N. congress to be delivered Monday.

Noting that the institution

was currently in a "profound crisis," Dr. Ghali said: "We are all conscious of the financial crisis."

"But there is also a political crisis whereby some are trying to weaken the bases of the authority, of the legitimacy of the United Nations, and hence of multilateral action," he added.

He did not elaborate, but his target appeared clear. In recent days, Dr. Ghali has been attacked by the U.S. mission here, by Republicans at their San Diego convention and by right-wing U.S. Senator Jesse Helms.

Influential congressional Democrats meanwhile have linked Washington's continued refusal to pay its U.N. dues to the presence of the current secretary general.

In a further sign of the guerrilla warfare to come, the Egyptian mission to the United Nations Friday circulated copies of a U.S. newspaper article with the short comment: "A true word is always there."

The article from the Chicago Tribune, pointing an accusatory finger at Washington, concluded that "if the U.N. has been less than what it could have been in these pivotal years, the primary responsibility for that failure has not been Ghali's."

Burundi leader holds talks with Nyerere

BUJUMBURA (R) — Burundi's President Pierre Buyoya, his country under sanctions following a military coup last month, flew Sunday to Tanzania to meet former President Julius Nyerere, presidential officials said in Bujumbura.

Mr. Nyerere is playing a leading role in mediation between Maj. Buyoya and other African leaders. The meeting was taking place at Butiama, Mr. Nyerere's home in western Tanzania, Maj. Buyoya's aides said.

They gave no further details, but said Maj. Buyoya was expected to return to Bujumbura later Sunday.

Maj. Buyoya's meeting with Mr. Nyerere was the latest in a series of high-level contacts with leaders in Tanzania and Uganda since the east African states imposed sanctions on trade and communications with Burundi after the July 25 coup there.

East African ministers meeting in Kampala, the Ugandan capital, this month agreed to ban travel to and from Burundi by members of the Buyoya government.

Despite this declaration, there have been several high-level meetings between Maj. Buyoya ministers and representatives of other African governments, with Burundi apparently seeking a softening of the trade sanctions.

The sanctions are hitting Burundi hard. Strict rationing of petrol is already in force and there is a growing shortage of many other imported goods.

Burundi has no local oil supplies, and normally imports petrol through Tanzania's Indian Ocean port, Dar Es Salaam.

Goods are normally carried by rail across Tanzania to the Lake Tanganyika port of Kigoma, and from there by ship to Bujumbura.

But the movement of ships from Kigoma to Bujumbura has halted, and Tanzania and Zaire recently agreed to step up efforts to stop the smuggling of goods to Burundi in small boats on Lake Tanganyika.

Japanese ruling party chief told to stay away from new party

TOKYO (AFP) — The head of one of the three parties in Japan's ruling coalition was told Sunday he was not welcome to join a new party being formed by his deputy.

Yukio Hatoyama, the number two in New Party Sakigake, rejected the offer made Saturday by party chief Masayoshi Takemura, who offered to step down as leader and move into the "rear guard" of the new party.

"I will tell him that I want him to refrain from participating in the founding of the new party," Mr. Hatoyama told reporters, referring to a meeting with Mr. Takemura scheduled for Tuesday.

"If he does not accept my request, I would be ready to leave the party," said Mr. Hatoyama, who has been promoting his bid to form a new liberal party for the past several months.

"He is a great man, but he is heavily burdened with a negative image of Sakigake," Mr. Hatoyama said.

Sakigake is the smallest party in the coalition with the powerful Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), headed by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, and the Social Democratic Party.

Mr. Takemura, who has headed Sakigake since its founding in 1993, has been criticised for a scheme to use billions of dollars in taxpayers' money to liquidate housing loan companies which went bust after Japan's "bubble" economy of the 1980s collapsed.

The plan was drawn up last December, when Mr. Takemura was finance minister.

"To be honest, I'm surprised," Mr. Takemura told Japan Broadcasting Corp. after hearing Mr. Hatoyama's rejection.

Los Angeles Times newspaper has said that guards in a California prison arranged "cockfights" between inmates, betting on the men and shooting several of them. The newspaper, citing prison officials, said California's toughest maximum-security jail, Corcoran State Prison, ranked highest in the United States for inmate killings with routine reports of torture and cover-ups by prison guards.

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4 women enroll at all-male U.S. military school

CHARLESTON, S.C. (R) — Four women, in an historic move, enrolled Saturday at South Carolina's formerly all-male military college, cheered on by a group of about a dozen supporters outside the Citadel's wrought-iron gates.

Nancy Mace and Kim Messer both of South Carolina, Jeanie Mentavlos of North Carolina and Petra Lovetinska of Washington, D.C. were the first group of women were accepted by the school based on a policy change. Like all Citadel freshmen, the four were not allowed to talk to the news media waiting at the front gate. They went to their barracks and put on shorts and T-shirts issued to all cadets for physical training. On Monday, all cadets are scheduled to receive uniforms to mark the start of hell week, so called for its aggressive, confrontational training exercises. "Everyone is focusing on how to make this a very successful orientation," Citadel Acting President Clifton Poole told reporters. After the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that the all-male admissions policy at the state-supported Virginia Military Institute (VMI) was unconstitutional, the Citadel, the only other state-funded, all-male college in the nation, dropped its legal battle and changed its policy within days. VMI has not yet decided whether to go private or admit women, as the order specified. Asked whether the cadets were instructed to behave in any particular way, Mr. Poole said, "You cannot tell them what to think and you can't tell them what to say except when they're in military formation."

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الرداءة: ١٩٧٣
الرداءة: ١٩٧٣

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Exemplary ties

THE RELAXED atmosphere that characterised the talks on Sunday between the Jordanian leadership and Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda highlighted the warmth of relations between Jordan and Japan and the confidence that the two countries have in each other.

The strength of the Japanese-Jordanian relationship is no accident; it is the result of the consistency of Jordanian policies and the Kingdom's adherence to moderation and democracy as a way for life that Tokyo appreciates very much.

Crowning the relationship between the two countries is the strong ties between the royal families of the two countries despite the geography that separates them and the contrasting features of the two cultures. Again, those relations clearly show that the two sides could build strong bridges of friendship if only they sought to look for common grounds rather than differences.

The comments made by Japanese diplomats before, during and after the short visit by Mr. Ikeda more than evidence the fact that Tokyo does indeed consider Jordan as the gateway to the Middle East as clearly stated in the Tokyo Declaration of 1995. The reference that Mr. Ikeda made in terms of Jordan being able to act as a bridgehead between the Arab World and Israel, particularly at this point in time when the Middle East peace process is logjammed, spoke volumes for the importance that Tokyo attaches to the Kingdom's regional role.

We in Jordan are grateful for the consistent support that Japan has extended us over the past decades, and especially during the last six years, without which we would have faced harsher economic problems. Given Japan's policies governing external aid, it is also clear that Tokyo appreciates Jordan's determined efforts to achieve self-reliance along the model that Japan established following World War II.

Jordan's determination to be able to stand on its own feet, as clearly manifested in its fiscal and economic policies, is highly appreciated in Japan, which can easily identify itself with the problems that we confront because it lived through similar times in its post-war history. That in itself is the best bond of relations between the two peoples and countries.

For some of the uninformed among us, the amount of grant, \$7 million, that was announced during Mr. Ikeda's visit would seem much too small, given the needs of Jordan. But then we should not overlook the fact that Japan granted us assistance worth more than \$340 million in the fiscal year ending March 1996, and further aid for our education and water sectors is under discussion.

However, we are conscious of the fact that financial assistance is not an end in itself. What Jordan is seeking from Japan is assistance in terms of technological, industrial and management skills that would help the Kingdom eventually join the community of developed countries rather than continue to be dependent on external aid.

The various organisations that have been set up to enhance dialogue between Jordan and Japan and the intense moves that are already under way for Japanese-Jordanian interaction in trade and industry are slowly producing results.

In the meantime, visits like Mr. Ikeda's and those planned by Jordanian leaders to Japan should continue to strengthen Jordanian-Japanese relations to levels that should set examples to the international community.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER FOR Al Ra'i daily Sunday urged the Arab leaders to follow the example of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in directing strong criticism at Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and exercise pressure on him to comply with the requirements of peace. Arab leaders would not wait for the complete demise of the peace process at the hands of Netanyahu but must rather move quickly to denounce Israel's shirking of responsibility towards the peace process and stimulate the world community's efforts to force the Israeli government to refrain from committing further illegal practices against the Palestinians or building more settlements in occupied Arab territories, said Sultan Al Hattab. The behaviour of the Israeli government, its refusal to commit itself to implementing the Oslo agreements and its drive to deprive the Palestinians of their legitimate rights are pushing the Palestinians and their leadership towards the edge of desperation, continued the writer. By turning his back to the peace process, by disregarding the calls for withdrawing Israeli forces from the Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian lands and by demanding peace with the Arab states without swapping it with lands, Netanyahu is showing the world that it only respects the language of force and seeking more acts of aggression, said the writer. He warned that the death of the peace process will be costly to Israel as well as the Arab countries and will be detrimental to the future of the whole region.

Economic Review

Fearing tourists and tourism

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

FOR SEVERAL years now, the focus of study and analysis in tourism has been on what tourists fear when coming to the Middle East, and on what should be done to allay their fears and changing whatever misconceptions tourists may have about us. Unfortunately, little has been done, especially in Jordan, to gauge how citizens of the host country feel towards tourists; and, to my knowledge, no serious scholarly survey has yet been done in Jordan to evaluate how people feel about those visitors who by the nature of their visit do not stay for a long while which would eliminate the possibility of creating some form of bonding between guest and host. Jordanians are confronted with brief cultural glimpses of the tourists, who, regardless of nationality, visit for a short while and leave. However, these brief contacts make lasting images in the minds of people with some behaviour, from both sides, being considered shocking or challenging to long-term norms. However, neither side is given the opportunity and time to study the other to form a somewhat more objective view of the culture he/she is being faced with. This is the real dilemma.

Jordan, a country with a 100,000 registered tourist sites (one site per every 41 people), hosted over one million tourists in 1995, a number which is supposed to grow even further this year and continue to grow at an annual rate of 10 per cent over the next four years. With the increase in tourist-related activities, more contact will be felt between the peoples of the different cultures of world and Jordanians, whose livelihood will become more and more dependent on tourism. In other words, Jordanians, an extremely polite people with hospitality traits that are second to none, will have their hospitality tested, and their

cultural endurance stretched to the limit as the number of tourists visiting the country continues to rise (provided of course that the peace process continues).

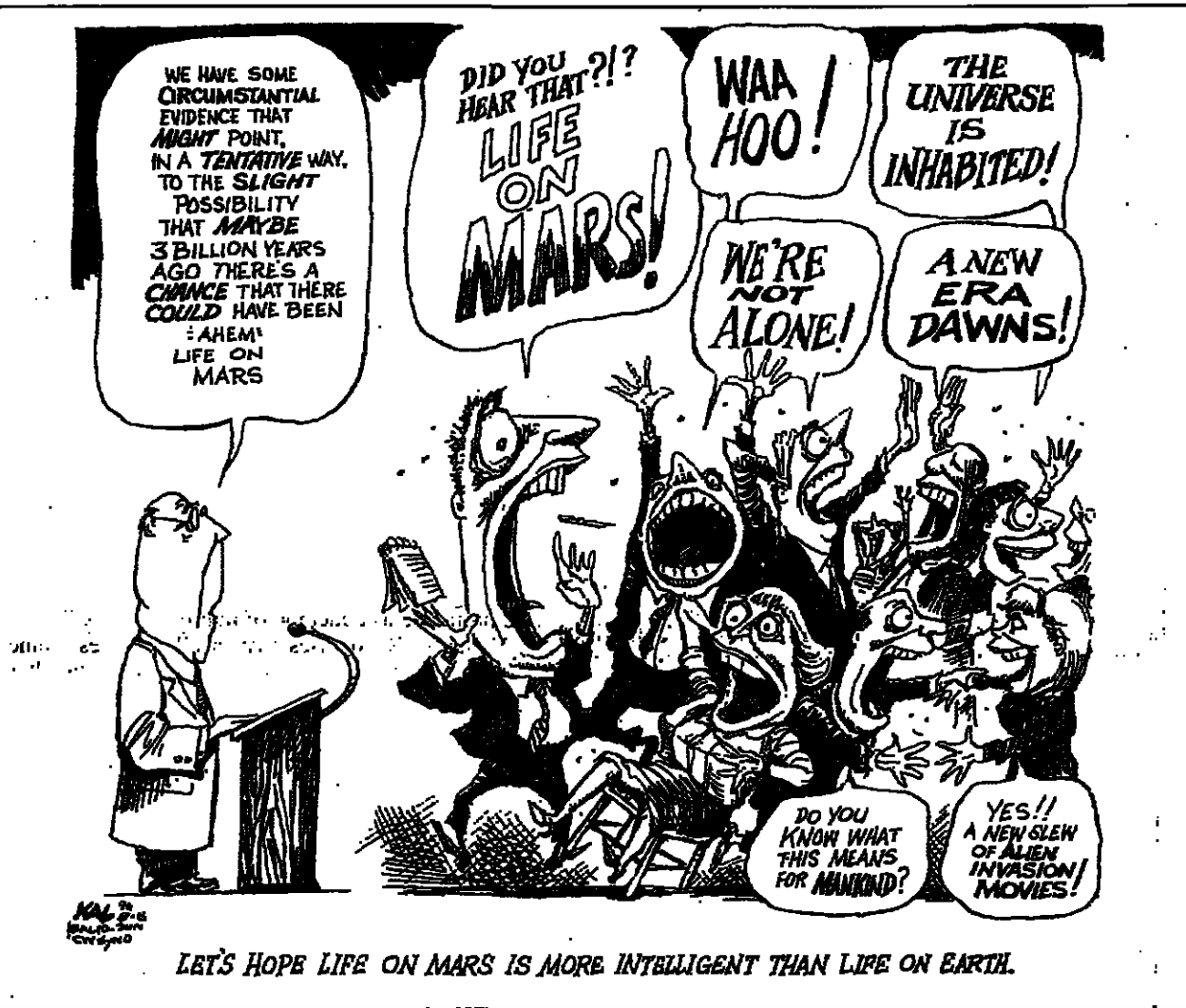
Many tour agents in the West provide their clients with booklets on the country they are going to visit to give them a glimpse of the culture they are about to enter. Furthermore, tourists usually research the country they are intending to visit before they make a decision to spend their time and money in it. On the other hand, and in most cases, what a native observes or experiences in terms of behaviour from the tourist serves as the observer's only education which may be a crude and unfair form of crash-course learning and tends to create stereotypes that add to local fears from the foreign unknown. (Staring at tourists is a form of wanting to learn the most about the tourist during a brief street encounter.) Thus, while most tourists are ready for their cultural encounter their hosts do not have the luxury of the same experience.

Consider for instance the ethnic diversity of the visitors who come to Jordan. Last year, Jordan received over 100,000 Israeli tourists, and in the last seven months as Israeli tourism decreased after the elections in Israel, Jordan hosted over 291,000 Gulf citizens as our bilateral relations improved. Both the Gulf and Israel are culturally diverse, with possibly diametrically opposed demands and patterns of behaviour. Their impacts on the cultural sensibilities of Jordanians will also be different and at times may be offensive to the sensitivities of the culture of the land. If one were to consider the population of Jordan and take into account that the tourists mainly visit specific areas of Jordan, the ethnic diversity and the number of tourists that bombard some segments of society are

extreme and the exposure to such large numbers is nothing short of scary.

Additionally, because Jordan's tourism facilities were not ready to meet the increase in tourism most of the work on supra and infrastructure facilities has only recently started. What happened to tourism in Jordan as a consequence of the peace accord was beyond the planners' wildest dreams. Therefore, in the last two years catch-up investment in tourism has surpassed \$500 million with still more investment to come. The magnitude and speed of execution of these investment expenditures will create social and environmental imbalances in the immediate environment of many Jordanians. For example, residents of areas around the Dead Sea, an area which has been asleep for a long time, will witness developments in infrastructure activity alone that is worth over \$90 million (the supra structural developments will easily exceed this figure) in the very near future. The noise, pollution and environmental change that will accompany such an august drive for development will unsettle the cultural calm and quiet which the people around the Dead Sea have enjoyed and replace it with uncertainty and apprehension regarding the future of the area and theirs.

The importance of studying the cultural accommodation capacity of Jordanians and the benefits that could be gained by businesses from such studies should not be underestimated. By knowing the tolerances and comfort zones of Jordanians, sustainable tourism can be created and ushered to Jordan in an optimal manner. In other words, let's find out what we are really good at in tourism and produce it with a willing and enthusiastic work force — the Jordanian people.



An insane decision

By Gwynne Dyer

AFTER NEARLY three years of haggling over the text, the other 60 countries at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament had all agreed on a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty (CTBT), but India was adamant. "In our view," said Indian Ambassador Arundhati Ghose on Monday, "the conference has no text for a comprehensive test-ban treaty."

It was an Indian leader, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who first proposed a complete ban on nuclear weapons tests more than 40 years ago. Finally, everybody else has come around to the idea, but the Conference on Disarmament works by consensus — and it is India, of all places, that is blocking the treaty. Why?

New Delhi says that it wants the existing nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain — to set a date for total nuclear disarmament before it signs away its own right to test nuclear weapons. A nobly idealistic stand — except that other countries whose size, wealth or exposure gives them just as much claim to nuclear weapons status (Germany, Japan, Pakistan, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia) are not blocking the treaty.

It would be good to abolish all nuclear weapons on the planet, but there is no consensus on that yet. Miraculously, there is a consensus on banning all nuclear weapons tests, which will greatly hinder both the development of new weapons by existing nuclear powers, and the spread of nuclear weapons to new countries. Perhaps the Indians, in

blocking the CTBT, are just making the error of letting the best be the enemy of the good. Or perhaps their real motives are less lofty. For the clause in the draft treaty that most annoys New Delhi is one stating that all three "threshold" nuclear powers — Israel, India and Pakistan — have to sign the treaty before it goes into effect.

One of the countries that insisted on that clause was China. India's neighbour and main potential rival for Asian superpower status. Why? Because China has already tested dozens of nuclear weapons and has built an arsenal of several hundred, while India has tested one and built none. Beijing would like to keep it that way, and sees the CTBT as a way of freezing the Indians out.

The Indian government, with broad support from its own policy elites and the domestic mass media, is refusing to play. From an Indian national perspective based on traditional short-term strategic calculations, this makes perfect sense. From a long-term global perspective, it is insane. For the first time since 1945, we have arrived at a point where every single acknowledged possessor of nuclear weapons is willing to ban all testing forever more. Every other country that might aspire to nuclear weapons is willing to sign away its right to test them forever. This may be a once-in-a-century opportunity — and India is sabotaging it in order to retain a right it has not exercised for the past 22 years.

For all practical purposes, India already has nuclear weapons. Its only test of a "nuclear explosive device", allegedly for peaceful purposes, was at Pokhran in 1974, but everybody assumes it has a number of bombs in an all-but-assembled state, and since 1988 it has been testing the Prithvi surface-to-surface missile, which is a nuclear-delivery vehicle.

The CTBT would not stop India from doing all this; it would simply oblige it not to explode any of its nuclear weapons in a test again. That's what the other two "threshold" nuclear states, Pakistan and Israel, were also asked to do at Geneva, and they both agreed to comply even though they have never conducted a test.

Pakistan, which has fought three wars with India, plunged into a crash nuclear weapons programme after India's Pokhran test in 1974, and now has around half a dozen atomic weapons of its own. But it has never tested them, and yet it is willing to sign the CTBT if India will.

The Israelis now have at least 200 nuclear weapons: their tactical warheads are stored near Eilat in the eastern Galilee, and 50 underground bunkers at Kfar Zekharya in the Judean hills west of Jerusalem house at least 50 Jericho II medium-range missiles with nuclear warheads. The Israelis have never tested their nukes, either, but they are willing to sign.

And apart from the three "threshold states", everybody else who once had a secret nuclear weapons programme has now dropped it.

In 1990, former South African president FW de Klerk ordered the dismantling of the six bombs South Africa built in the 1980s. He later opened all the country's records and nuclear installations to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors.

Iraq got to within three months of testing an atomic bomb in early 1991, but the United Nations monitoring system imposed after Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war has effectively ended that risk. "There's no possibility at present in Iraq for continuing any covert nuclear programme and developing the bomb," said Maurizio Zifferero, deputy chairman of the IAEA, last August.

Argentina abandoned its nuclear weapons programme after the fall of the junta in 1982, and Switzerland stopped hoarding weapons-grade uranium in 1988. Romania stopped working on the bomb after dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was killed in 1989. The Brazilian nuclear arms programme was officially buried in 1990 and North Korea has been bullied and bribed into halting its nuclear weapons programme over the past two years.

So the timing is perfect for a comprehensive test-ban treaty. Apart from Indian strategists who want to test a warhead for the Prithvi missile, nobody wants to test right now. India's veto is no more short-sighted than a hundred other decisions by the great powers during the nuclear era, but it comes at a uniquely bad time.

The Conference on Disarmament closes with no agreement to forward the CTBT text to the United Nations, but all is not lost. Later this autumn, a broad coalition of countries will almost certainly submit the same text to the United Nations General Assembly, where India has no veto. Then, over the next few years, everybody else can sign on — and unanimity minus one is still worth having.

Peace process in Bosnia could stumble, diplomats warn

By Kurt Schork
Reuters

SARAJEVO — Diplomats in the Balkans are warning that the Bosnian peace process which began in Dayton last year is at risk of stumbling badly by insisting on the form but not the content of democracy.

They say the mere casting of ballots in Bosnia-wide elections on Sept. 14, a key pillar of the Dayton agreement that ended 43 months of war, will not by itself solve the country's problems.

"A lot of little lies have been told in Bosnia which are now culminating in the big lie of allegedly democratic elections," said a Western diplomat in Sarajevo who asked not to be named. "The scheming and mendacity of the Bosnian factions is no surprise. But the history of the West's involvement in Bosnia since the war began is also to say one thing and do another, to make a pledge and fail to deliver. Dayton is no exception."

Many international observers feel that with key parts of the Dayton still unfulfilled, the basic reforms necessary to support democratic elections are not in place.

What was billed as an electoral process to reintegrate Bosnia as a single, multi-ethnic state is seen by critics as a referendum on partition, de facto or de jure.

Having suffered through Europe's worst war in half a century in which some 200,000 people died, Bosnia's Muslims, Croats and Serbs took heart from the internationally-sanctioned Dayton peace agreement signed in December 1995.

Dayton guaranteed refugees the right to return to their homes, ensured freedom of movement and served notice that indicted war criminals would be brought to justice before a U.N. tribunal at the Hague.

Substantial responsibility for this post-war programme was assigned to the former warring factions, but more than 50,000 NATO-led combat troops and 1,600 U.N. police were also despatched to Bosnia to seal the deal.

Horde of Western bureaucrats also descended on the country to rebuild roads, bridges, housing and government institutions. The promise and the

premise of the Dayton peace agreement were that justice and human rights, capped by democratic elections, were the balm for the Bosnian war and the basis for long-term peace and reconciliation.

NATO quickly separated the formerly warring factions and got the armies back to barracks — no mean feat.

But then NATO troops began patrolling what was supposed to be an administrative and porous boundary line between Bosnia's two halves, its Muslim-Croat federation and its Serb republic.

This helped to turn the boundary line into a border, which was exactly what the separatist Serbs wanted.

Refusing to assume policing duties, NATO said it was up to U.N. police monitors and local Bosnian police to facilitate freedom of movement and the return of refugees across the "inter-entity" boundary line.

Unarmed U.N. police lacked the muscle. Local police, in the service of whichever nationalist party controlled their area, far from contributing to a new freedom of movement actually blocked it.

The round-up of war criminals fared no better than freedom of movement or the return of refugees. NATO refused to engage in manhunts and seemed at times to go out of its way to avoid encountering indictees.

Eight months after Dayton was signed, former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic and his army commander General Ratko Mladic — both indicted for war crimes by the Hague tribunal — remain at large in the midst of a massive NATO deployment.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is the post-cold war, trans-Atlantic combine charged with supervising Bosnian elections on Sept. 14.

OSCE recently concluded and publicly announced that conditions for free and fair elections in Bosnia do not exist, citing restrictions on freedom of movement, association and press, and the inability of refugees to return to their homes.

However, the OSCE decided to proceed with elections nonetheless, saying there was a reasonable prospect they would be democratic.

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Equality of the sexes: Year after Beijing, momentum is on

Women activists take it on their own

A YEAR ago, the largest gathering of women in history took place in Beijing. A 150-page blueprint to achieve equality of the sexes was adopted by 189 states. An Associated Press reporter, **Edith M. Lederer**, examines what has happened since the U.N. conference to transform words into action.

LONDON — Brazil has promised free cancer-screening exams for women. The United States is spending \$1.6 billion to try to end domestic violence. South African President Nelson Mandela is setting up a unit in his office to monitor the status of women.

A year after 189 states pledged to make equality of the sexes a reality in the 21st century, many governments are crediting the conference for their latest steps to help women.

"The momentum is on — and this momentum is not only by women but even by governments and by men," said Gertrude Mongella, secretary-general of the Fourth World Conference on Women that adopted a 150-page plan to achieve women's equality.

Inspired by last September's U.N. conference in Beijing, five Mongolian women ran for parliament in June and won, bringing the total number of female legislators to seven out of 76. Women's groups in Zaire joined forces to try to change laws that bar women from travelling or opening bank accounts without their husbands' permission.

But very few countries have committed new resources to implement the women's agenda.

Many are juggling existing funds and some countries, like Argentina and Colombia, have drastically cut resources for women, according to a 25-nation survey by the New York-based Women's Environment and Development Organisation.

South Africa was the only country surveyed that was considering reallocating part of its military budget to support women's economic advancement.

Noeleen Heyzer, director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, is concerned the partnership between women's groups and governments that helped make the Beijing conference such a success may start to crumble — and a key reason is money.

"Many women's organisations are having problems sustaining themselves after Beijing — and yet they are most needed now in the monitoring and implementation of priorities and recommendations that have come out of Beijing," she said.

At the heart of the struggle for women's equality are the raw statistics of inequality: Females constitute 70 per cent of the world's 1.3 billion poor, 65 per cent of the illiterate and 11 per cent of legislators. Women's earnings average 75 per cent those of men.

"What is really lacking is opportunities... especially in the area of women's economic and political participation," Heyzer said. "What's still lacking is partnership with the private sector."

Grassroots groups in many countries have started lobbying to put women in the top echelons of big business. In June, the first Global Women Entrepreneurs Trade Fair was held in Accra, Ghana.

International voluntary organisations have also set a goal of giving 100 million

HRH Princess Basma, a newly named goodwill U.N. ambassador, is calling a meeting in late September to talk about implementing the Beijing platform in the Arab World



of the world's poorest families — especially the women — access to credit by 2005.

At Beijing, Western governments and lending institutions fell in love with this concept of "micro-credit" — providing small loans to enable poor women to start small businesses.

The grassroots groups are organising a micro-credit summit in Washington on Feb. 2-4, with First Lady Hillary Clinton as an honorary co-chair, and inviting lending institutions and governments to take part. They hope at least half the \$20 billion in capital needed to help the poorest will come from the private sector.

One little-noticed outcome of the Beijing conference was a campaign by 1,000 voluntary groups to try to shift the funding priorities of the World Bank to issues women care about — alleviating poverty, improving health care and education.

Activists from the campaign — women's eyes on the World Bank — expect to meet the bank's president, James Wolfensohn, on Sept. 6. The bank has given \$30 million to fund micro-credit projects and has asked 12 women from voluntary organisations to consult on its gender issues.

The campaign activists will be attending a confer-

ence in Washington from Sept. 5-8, organised by the Association of Women and Development, where 1,200 women from around the world will discuss progress on implementing the Beijing agenda.

In the United Nations, Secretary-General Boutros Ghali appointed Assistant Secretary-General Rosario Green of Mexico to oversee implementation of the Beijing agenda and all U.N. conference agreements on gender issues.

The intense debates in Beijing over abortion, sexual rights and inheritance rights illustrated the divisions among women and governments on key issues.

Since Beijing, Heyzer said she has noticed that the old divide between women from industrialised and Third World countries is diminishing — but the divide between feminists and fundamentalists is growing, especially in more developed countries.

Many Muslim countries in the Middle East and some staunchly Roman Catholic nations have been very slow to take on the Beijing agenda. But in some of these countries, women themselves are taking the lead.

Princess Basma, a newly named goodwill U.N. ambassador, is calling a meeting in late September to talk about implementing

LONDON (AP) — Many women legislators who were in Beijing for last year's U.N. conference have decided not to wait for their governments to act.

Elske Ter Veld, a senator from the Netherlands, helped establish a data bank of women qualified for top jobs — and women's groups are lobbying male-dominated local authorities and the boards of big Dutch companies such as Shell and Philips to hire these women.

"They look at the world through man's eyes. We must learn to look at the world through women's eyes," she said. "That's what we learned from Beijing."

In Colombia, female senators from the liberal and conservative parties invited ministers to a televised public debate on their plans to implement and monitor the Beijing agenda. In Brazil, female legislators selected 15 bills to push as priorities for women — including punishing violence against women.

Around the world, women's organisations have also been in the forefront, pushing for change.

A caucus of Japanese voluntary groups is lobbying for a ministry for women and a decree on violence against

women.

"Rape is not a crime in our country," said caucus member Yoko Kitazawa, co-president of the Pacific Asia Resource Centre in Tokyo, explaining that injury to the body is a crime but forcing sexual intercourse isn't.

"It's a big issue, but hidden," she said. "Violence against women is also hidden."

The Cameroon Women's Networking Association is pushing for laws to guarantee equal rights to inherit property and in commercial activities.

"You know in Africa when you are married, you are a property of your husband. You are treated like a table. But with this new code, this will change," said Honoree Epee, an association leader.

For the first time, the world knows "what women's empowerment really means — even if they are not in power yet," said Brazilian feminist Thais Corral.

"By the end of the 21st century, we will do it."

Agenda for women's equality cuts across culture

HIGHLIGHTS of platform for action adopted a year ago at the U.N. Women's conference in Beijing to achieve women's equality in 21st century:

Poverty: Calls for women to have greater access to credit, revised laws to ensure women's equal access to economic resources.

Education: Calls on governments to commit by 2000 to universal access to basic education, completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children. Demands all countries achieve universal education before 2015.

Health: Says women have right to affordable and quality health care. Recognises woman's right to obtain information and make decisions on reproduction, to control own sexuality free of coercion. Sets targets to reduce maternal mortality.

Abortion: Commits nations to consider reviewing laws containing punitive measures against women who undergo illegal abortion. Reiterates: "In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning."

Violence: Recognises that in all societies women and girls are subject to physical, sexual and psychological

abuse. Recognises that sexual slavery, forced abortion, pre-natal sex selection and female infanticide are acts of violence. Urges governments to adopt legislation to end violence against women.

Armed conflict: Recognises that rape in armed conflict is a crime, in certain circumstances an act of genocide. Economy: Calls for elimination of all forms of employment discrimination, equal access for women to jobs.

Decision-making: Urges women have equal access to "power structures" in government, public administration, political parties, trade unions.

Inheritance: Emphasises injustice and discrimination women and girls often face regarding equal right to inheritance.

Parental responsibility: Recognises rights of parents to provide guidance to young people but upholds rights of young to information, confidentiality and informed consent on matters related to sexuality and reproduction.

Family: Recognises family as basic unit of society, also recognises "various forms of the family exist."

Unpaid work: Calls for methods to assess value of unpaid work — AP

the Beijing platform in the Arab World. A conference on increasing women's participation in politics is scheduled in Yemen in October.

"There is no quick fix here," said Susan Davis, executive director of the

women's environment and development organisation. "This is centuries of inequality that we are trying to reverse in the context of severe global inequality."

But she is nonetheless heartened by preliminary results from a survey of

over 50 countries on implementation of the Beijing agenda. Called "Beyond Promises — Governments in Motion," it will be published in September.

India, South Africa and Indonesia have already incorporated priorities from

Beijing into national action plans.

On Sept. 28, town meetings linked by satellite to the White House interagency council will be held in 1,000 cities across the United States to develop the American plan.

Prime minister presents blueprint for economic development

(Continued from page 1)

— A first draft is also ready of a law for protecting national economy which aims at preventing the dumping of products and illegal practices in international trade.

— A law for financing guarantees will allow the hypothecation of current assets for obtaining financing. The law will encourage small industries to expand and increase production and efficiency.

Mr. Kabarti said that some other laws have been amended, including the Companies Law, the first draft of which has been prepared and is currently being reviewed. The amendments aim at simplifying registration procedures for new companies and minimising the requirements

for registration. In addition, this law will encourage reinvestment of profits through cancelling the capitalisation tax on reserves.

— A law for securities which draws upon organisational framework for the Amman Financial Market, and to control securities' trading and protect investors.

The Customs Law has been completed in a draft form and will be presented to specialised committees soon, the prime minister said.

The government is also preparing the legal framework for mutual funds to consolidate small savings in order to activate various economic and financial activities. The operations of these mutual funds will be controlled by a Jordan securities and exchange

commission, Mr. Kabarti stated.

The prime minister noted that the government had laid down a comprehensive working plan to privatise public sector institutions which are involved in direct production activities. In this context, he added, the government has decided to form a ministerial committee to draw up the general policies for the privatisation process and to set up a technical unit to implement it.

In the agricultural sector, an agreement has been concluded with the European Union (EU) to allow the export of 82 agricultural products from Jordan to EU countries. The Jordanian negotiating team for the Euro-Jordanian partnership agreement is working on including additional prod-

ucts to be exported free of customs to the EU countries, Mr. Kabarti said.

The prime minister said social security measures will also be taken to "ensure social justice and equality and prosperity for all members of society."

These measures, Mr. Kabarti said, include providing basic social services with the lowest possible cost. The government, he said, will expand the number of people covered by health insurance such as daily workers at different ministries, adding that investments in the health sector will be given priority, especially in underdeveloped areas.

The government has presented an investment programme for infrastructure development in the poor areas of the Kingdom, the

prime minister said.

He added that the government will also provide the unemployed with the required skills through providing employment opportunities or establishing small-scale projects.

Mr. Kabarti said the government will also set a comprehensive programme to finance the small income-generating projects and provide them with skills to ensure their success.

At the end of the meeting, members of the private sector presented their views on the government's proposals and requested that the government reconsider other laws pertaining to intellectual property rights, income tax law, sales tax law and the law regarding the audit bureau.

Japanese minister visits Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

million grant to finance the reconstruction of Sheikh Hussein bridge and build access roads and terminal facilities (see page 3).

Mr. Kabarti received Mr. Ikeda in his office and reviewed with him bilateral cooperation in the political and economic fields as well as the latest developments in the region.

Mr. Ikeda renewed an invitation to Mr. Kabarti to visit Japan. The visit was tentatively scheduled to take place in March but was delayed because of a parliamentary deadlock that was preoccupying the Tokyo government.

It was not known when Mr. Kabarti would visit

Japan. Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is expected to call general elections in October, and, as such, it is unlikely that a visit by Mr. Kabarti could be scheduled between now and October.

Ken Shimomouchi, official spokesman for the Japanese foreign minister, told a press briefing that Japan was seeking to "deepen its involvement in the peace process" and noted that "high-level contacts" between Japan and the region's countries were steadily increasing.

He referred to the visit to the Middle East last year of then Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama. Mr. Ikeda's participation as Japan's representative at the "Summit

of Peacemakers" in Sharm Al Sheikh in March, the foreign minister's recent visit to Turkey, and Japan's contribution of soldiers to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights.

The spokesman also referred to Japan's involvement in the multilateral phase of the peace process, where Tokyo chairs a working group on the environment and a committee on tourism as part of a working group on regional economic cooperation.

"There is a limit to what Japan can do" to advance the peace process on the political level, Mr. Shimomouchi said in an implicit reference to the dominant U.S. role in Mideast peace

negotiations. But, Tokyo attaches high importance to peace in the Mideast, given "the interdependence among nations."

The spokesman said Japan believes that "a channel of dialogue should be created to develop cooperative relations" between the Arabs and Israel.

In this regard, "it is important to note the role played by Jordan," he said without elaboration.

Mr. Ikeda met with Israeli President Ezer Weizman in West Jerusalem Sunday afternoon and later with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Arafat is scheduled to visit Japan early next month.

The Japanese foreign minister, who started the Middle East swing in Egypt on Aug. 21 before visiting

Syria and coming to Jordan, is scheduled to hold talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday.

According to spokesman Shimomouchi, Mr. Ikeda is expected to urge Mr. Netanyahu to "achieve further progress (towards peace) on the basis of agreements already signed with the principle of land-for-peace and relevant United Nations resolutions."

He will also call on Mr. Netanyahu to go ahead with Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron as originally agreed with the Palestinians and to immediately lift the seven-month-old closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and launch final status negotiations with the Palestinians.

PNA closes offices

(Continued from page 1)

"After an exchange of opinions, we agreed that the meeting would be held — no date was set — in my house, which is the most appropriate place," Mr. Weizman said after consulting with Mr. Netanyahu at the president's Jerusalem office.

Israel Radio reported the meeting in the central Israeli village of Caesarea would take place within two weeks.

Mr. Weizman said Mr. Arafat had sent him a letter "in which he spelled out his troubles and problems and said 'I hope we will meet soon.'"

"After the letter was translated to Hebrew, I invited the prime minister to see me last Tuesday. I showed him the letter. He read it carefully. Afterwards I told him, 'look, I want to agree to his request and meet him and I propose I do so in (my private residence) in Caesarea,'" Mr. Weizman said.

The Yedioth Ahronoth daily said the president had given Mr. Netanyahu until Sunday morning to agree either to meet Mr. Arafat himself or give Mr. Weizman the green light to issue an invitation.

Mr. Netanyahu, who

opposes the principle of exchanging occupied land for peace — the bedrock of the former Labour government's peace deals with the Palestinians — has said he has no desire to see Mr. Arafat.

But Mr. Weizman, again putting Mr. Netanyahu on the spot, said he believed the prime minister would eventually talk to Mr. Arafat.

"I suppose that as times go by and things develop, the prime minister will meet him...at the appropriate date," said Mr. Weizman, who as defence minister in the late Menachem Begin's right-wing government helped forge peace with Egypt.

On Thursday Mr. Netanyahu, elected on May 29, telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to tell him that peace talks with the PLO last held before the Israeli poll would resume "in the very near future."

Mr. Netanyahu was apparently shaken by Mr. Mubarak's suggestion earlier on Thursday that he might cancel a Middle East economic summit in November over Israel's stalling peace moves.

Asked why he had agreed to meet Mr. Arafat, Mr. Weizman said: "First-

ly because of (this) distress. But that is not the main thing: Arafat, whether we want it or not, is the first Palestinian leader in 100 years of confrontation to have attained a great political achievement."

Mr. Weizman has met Mr. Arafat once, at the 1994 inauguration of South African President Nelson Mandela.

"Today he has control over more than two million Palestinians. When a leader like that, who is my neighbour...asks to see me, I think I have to agree," Mr. Weizman said.

There was no immediate reaction from Mr. Arafat to Mr. Weizman's comments.

Only months ago, Mr. Weizman — who has never let his ceremonial post stop him venting his opinions — publicly demanded the former Labour government suspend peace efforts with Mr. Arafat following suicide bombings in Israel by militants.

Mr. Netanyahu was fiercely critical of a meeting last week between Mr. Arafat and his predecessor as prime minister, Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, whom he accused of interfering in the work of government.

Save water!
Every drop counts...

Tafleleh is a 'typical example of Jordan's existing problems in terms of development'

TAFLEH, Jordan (AFP)—Plagued by unemployment and off the tourist track, this southern town is a "typical example of Jordan's existing problems in terms of development," says its mayor, Ahmad Qaraane.

Tafleleh, some 200 kilometres south of Amman, was one of four towns in the south of the country rocked by violent protests on Aug. 16 and 17 over the government's withdrawal of bread subsidies.

Overlooking the Jordan River valley, Tafleleh's lush green landscape contrasts with the arid plains that make up 90 per cent of the kingdom. "But still, the town is one of Jordan's poorest areas," said Mr. Qaraane.

With its Afra hot springs

and nature preserves, this hilly town with a population of some 20,000 would appear to have all the makings of an ideal summer resort.

But it falls victim to its remoteness from the tourist highway, linking Amman to Aqaba, Jordan's only Red Sea resort some 365 kilometres south of the capital.

"One of our demands is to be integrated into the tourist circuit," said Mr. Qaraane.

Agricultural, industrial and canned food projects are also feasible, but the town lacks the funds, and the government is helpless because of its commitment to a tight economic reform programme under International Monetary Fund guidance.

"Salaries from the public

administration and the private sector make up most of the inhabitants' income," said the mayor. "And banks lend money only to entrepreneurs and professionals with experience."

In its drive towards prosperity, Tafleleh pinned much hope on the peace treaty sealed with Israel in 1994. But little has come of it.

"I spent 10,000 dinars (\$14,000) to turn my house into a motel hoping that tourists would turn up in big numbers under peace," said Hussein Sa'aydeh. "But just a few have shown up."

Sa'aydeh's Afra Hotel receives an average of only five guests a month.

"Tourists do come here from time to time but they only drive through and do

not stay overnight," he said. "Most guests are civil servants on assignment."

For Sa'aydeh, "a real crisis was behind the riots." He cites the example of the hardship and grumbling of his seven jobless brothers.

Unemployment is officially estimated at 15 per cent in Jordan, but the jobless rate in Tafleleh is believed to be much higher as illustrated by the dozens of young people aimlessly roaming the streets.

"One can only get a government job through good contacts," said Ali aqqal, 23, who holds a degree in electrical engineering but is unable to find a job. "When the price of bread and basic products went up, I took to the street."

"The limited vacancies

available in the private sector are underpaid and most often stripped of social insurance," said Khalil Fawzi, a construction site foreman.

"Jordanians tend to turn their backs and they go to foreigners, Egyptians mainly," he said.

Seeing little hope in their hometown, the young seek better opportunities in Amman, where a strong Tafleleh community lives in the district of Tafleleh, which means "the neighborhood of the people from Tafleleh" in Arabic.

That poor neighbourhood was the only one in the capital to have witnessed unrest, a sign that the migrants have achieved very little of their dreams.

Iraq-Jordan row unlikely to harm trade - diplomats

BAGHDAD (R)—Amman's accusations that Iraq incited riots in Jordan are unlikely to hurt bilateral trade, diplomats and analysts said Sunday.

They said the exchange of goods was vital for both countries and neither would like to see the apparent political strains spill over to the cross-border trade.

Jordan, accusing Iraq of fomenting riots which broke out on Aug. 16 after Amman doubled bread prices, has ordered out two Iraqi diplomats and an administrator at Iraq's embassy in Amman.

Baghdad's response has been restrained so far. Iraqi officials have not commented on the riots in Jordan and the official newspapers have been silent.

"They have not even reacted to the sending of their (Iraqi) diplomats home. It looks to me that Baghdad thinks Jordan's benefits from trade with Iraq will eventually outweigh any political differences," said an Arab diplomat.

Diplomats said sanctions-hit Iraq was keen to continue supplying Jordan with its oil needs and Jordan's troubled economy would suffer in case of any rupture in trade with Iraq.

Jordan, which is exempt from U.N. sanctions that bar Iraq from freely exporting its oil following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, imports about 80,000 barrels per day (bpd) from Iraq.

The oil exports bring cash-strapped Iraq about \$500 million a year. Jordan deposits the money in an escrow account at its central bank and pays almost half of it to finance Jordanian exports to Iraq.

"Cutting commercial links with Iraq would harm Jordan's economy. In the same way Baghdad would be deprived of a major source of income," said one diplomat.

Jordan, the diplomat said, would also lose transit trade from its Red Sea port of Aqaba, expected to boom once Iraq starts buying the humanitarian goods allowed under Baghdad's oil-for-food deal with the United Nations allowing exports of oil worth \$2 billion over six months.

The Arab diplomat said it would be hard for Jordan, despite persistent efforts to woo oil-rich Gulf states, to find a new oil source which would match the terms offered by Iraq.

Jordan pays the market price for 25,000 bpd of Iraq's crude and for another 25,000 bpd of petroleum products. The rest it pays for at undisclosed concessionary rates.

"I do not think any Arab Gulf state would be willing to sell Jordan oil in return for goods manufactured in Jordan," said the diplomat.

Italy braces for autumn of discontent as economy stagnates

ROME (AFP)—Italian business leaders have warned that the country was on the brink of recession, as a stagnant economy and high unemployment coupled with budget cuts raised fears of an autumn of discontent.

Figures released recently showed Italian industrial production slumped 6.3 per cent in June and by 0.7 per cent in the first half of the year. The story was similar in the auto industry, where new registrations fell 0.3 per cent in the first seven months of the year.

In addition, consumption has dropped and growth in exports, the engine of economic growth in previous years, has slowed. Italy's unemployment is among the highest in Europe at more than 12 per cent.

"The signs seem to me to be unequivocal. We are even closer to recession," said Cesare Romiti, chairman of Italian carmaker Fiat, the country's largest privately-owned company.

A report published last month by the national statistics office Istat said the number of poor people in Italy was 6.5 million in 1995. More than 2.1 million families lived below the poverty line, with income of less than \$747 a

month for two people.

In contrast, central bank figures showed that more than 31,000 bank accounts in Italy contain more than one billion lire (\$670,000), with 40 people a day joining the "billionaires club."

Prime Minister Romano Prodi's three-month-old centre-left government is due to present in September a budget containing a hefty \$20.6 billion in savings — mainly spending cuts — to meet the rigorous demands of the Maastricht treaty on European monetary union (EMU).

Wary of the risks of an outbreak of social unrest, Mr. Prodi stressed Italy's determination to join the single European currency — but not at any price.

"I want to follow the Maastricht criteria because they exist, and when you want to participate in the game you have to follow the rules," Mr. Prodi said in an interview with the Wall Street Journal Europe.

But he said he would not be concerned if Italy joined the EMU late.

"Our strategy of going into Europe is without alternative. (Italy must get into Europe) without killing the country," said Mr. Prodi.

He also pointed to the

government's success in some sectors. "I have to put my country on a virtuous circle and we are close: Inflation has been decreasing and this must be followed by drops in real interest rates. If I can do that, I can start to cancel out parts of the debt — slowly, slowly."

Countries wishing to be founder members of the single currency must reduce their public deficits to three per cent of gross domestic product by 1997.

Under a three-year economic plan, Mr. Prodi's government has said the public deficit will amount to 88 trillion lire (\$57 billion), or 4.4 per cent of GDP, in 1997, falling to 3.0 per cent, or 61 trillion lire, at the end of 1998.

But Mr. Romiti said in an interview with the newspaper La Repubblica that the inevitable result of obeying the "anti-expansionist" Maastricht criteria would be a decline in production and consumption.

The government must be "pushed into taking measures designed to revitalise industrial production and consumption, a difficult operation, because our country's budget is very tight and without any room for choice," he said.

Carlo Callieri, vice-chairman of the employers' organisation Confindustria, said he feared "the autumn will be very difficult," adding that some companies were already feeling the effects of recession.

"I feel there'll be a general climate of negative action in the coming months," he told La Stampa, adding that he was concerned at the government's reliance in parliament on the extreme left-wing refounded Communist Party.

Mr. Prodi's coalition, while commanding a solid majority in the senate,

needs the support of the communists in the lower chamber of deputies.

"The resumption of a social struggle by workers is necessary — they have suffered a reduction in buying power, modifications to the social systems, and aggravated job problems," said communist leader Fausto Bertinotti.

Mr. Bertinotti did not rule out a general strike by Italy's metal workers who have been refused wage rises.

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Horat Arnold and Billie Arfing

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RARIF
Odds: Many Made Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

WEEL

FLABEL

LENKER

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: IN

Saturday's Jumbles: IRATE PEGAN CUDDLE BURLAP
Answer: How the rodeo stars ended the competition — ALL TIED UP

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN Drawing: Mike Smith

"How embarrassing! Our neighbors' cat got her own personal Web page before we did!"

Peanuts

I'M READY FOR THE SPELLING BEE, MARCIE. I'VE STUDIED EVERY WORD AND EVERY RULE.

THE SPELLING BEE WAS THREE MONTHS AGO, SIR.

"I BEFORE E EXCEPT AFTER RATS!"

Andy Capp

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WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT?

I WAS DIRECTING HER TO THE TRAIN STATION.

YOU NEVER SEEM TO BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL THE TRUTH.

MAYBE YOU DON'T GET ENOUGH PRACTICE.

Mutt'n'Jeff

THE DOVES AND PIGEONS ARE GETTING TO KNOW ME!

I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM! PICKINGS ARE SCARCE THESE DAYS!

PRIME TIME FOR THE MAGICIAN

AL SMITH

THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin

ACROSS

1 Lady of rank
5 Dervish
10 Garden item
14 Give approval
15 Cream of the crop
16 Rept.
17 Holland sight
18 Pulls out the stops
20 "— for the money..."
21 Paddy plant
22 Queen of mystery
23 Show appreciation
25 Auctioneer's aim
26 Sedan shelter
28 Move with urgency
32 Fill with awe
33 Fischer's game
34 Bygone Mideast coalition
35 "I Love —" (old TV show)
36 Call up
37 Snare, for one
38 "— and ye shall receive"
39 Prattle
40 — hand (help)
41 Convention meetings
43 Particular styles
44 Latvia native
45 Certain African
46 Grief relief
49 Pond plant
50 Kind of jazz
53 Gets a move on
55 Up to the task
56 Tide's partner
57 Court event
58 Professional charges
59 Sorrowful sounds
60 Contest prize
61 Horse gait

DOWN

1 Stupid fellow
2 Related
3 Hotfoot it
4 Storm center
5 Puma or civet
6 Smart — (wise guy)
7 High flier
8 "— a Wonderful Life"
9 Practice a role
10 Globetrotters' home
11 Fairy tale beast
12 To-do
13 Catch site of Fitzgerald
19 Raines and
21 Current fashion
24 Indistinct
25 Public tiff
26 Elegant events
27 Entertain
28 Gunfire
29 Floar off
30 Magna cum —
31 Bombbeck et al.
33 Intone
36 Objects
37 Bummer boo-boo

39 Recital number
40 Musical Home
42 Quenches
43 Geese group
45 "— House" (Dickens)
46 Atl. flier
47 Indiana neighbor
48 Barnyard baby
49 Inter —
51 Bread spread
52 Annoying person
54 Museum display
55 Toward the stern

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY AUGUST 26 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try to satisfy your needs today and go after them in a practical fashion for good results. Resolve financial difficulties later this evening and you will be able to retain some funds for the lean periods in the days ahead.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Study yourself in the mirror today and see how to make improvements to your appearance and look more charming so that you will look successful to those in authority. Later this evening you can have fun with close friends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Use common sense in the morning today and you will be able to handle any difficulty which is present. Make it a point to spend the evening with your mate and you will have fun time together out on the town.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take care not to be too forceful in trying to gain an aim or you could find yourself in quite a difficulty with some bigwig. Later this evening a fellow associate give a good suggestion for you to succeed on a new project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Gain much prestige with the general public through your efforts to complete your career activities on time and under budget. The evening is best for asking a bigwig for a favour and you will receive a positive response at this time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You had better study further today into those new outlets which interest you before getting into them so that you can reduce any risks involved. Later this evening will be good for you to consult with some knowledgeable person.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be sure to handle promises you have made today and please those who count or you could find yourself in quite a difficulty. Do not upset your mate or there could be some inconvenience which you do not necessarily need.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more thoughtful with fellow associates and prevent them from getting disconcerted in whatever projects you all currently involved with at this time. Later this evening make agreements with some bigwig and follow through.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Persevere in your activities today even though obstacles may arise to deter your progress and prevent you from being successful. Later this evening you should consult with some knowledgeable person and gain his or her advice.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan time to labour on your finest talent tonight and you will achieve great prosperity. Take bugs out of the plans you have made for the days ahead and you will discover that they will produce great success.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you have made promise to loved ones in the past few days, be sure to keep them conscientiously or you will find yourself in hot water. Later this evening will be good to meet with close friends and have some fun together.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get into those rather hard activities during the daytime today so you can have free time tonight for fun and pleasure at a later time period. You can at this time meet with some authority figure and make some suggestions.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Busin
Jor
retu
Turkish
drug firms
seek Iraqi
deals

DAJA
JEWELLERS

FOR RENT
3 bedrooms
Shower
22 sq ft
3 bedrooms
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605 - 810609
Fax: 810520

Happy Days
Saus & Salads (Hot)
OPEN DAILY FROM
10 A.M. - 1 A.M.
Tel. 857199
Fax 898537
Umm Sahline
behind San Red
Hotel

OW
arm
rats

Horoscope
Forecast for
Day August
26 1996

ARIES
I have been
depressed
for some
time now
and I am
not sure
if I will
ever get
back to
normal.

TAURUS
I have been
feeling
better
about my
situation
and I am
starting
to feel
more
positive.

GEMINI
I have been
feeling
better
about my
situation
and I am
starting
to feel
more
positive.

CANCER
I have been
feeling
better
about my
situation
and I am
starting
to feel
more
positive.

LEO
I have been
feeling
better
about my
situation
and I am
starting
to feel
more
positive.

VIRGO
I have been
feeling
better
about my
situation
and I am
starting
to feel
more
positive.

Business & Finance

Jordan phosphate company returns to high profitability

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Net profit generated by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company during the first half of this year heralds a return to high profitability that the company enjoyed three years ago. By achieving a JD12.50 million net profit as of June 30, 1996 the amount was four-fold the JD3.57 million posted during the same period of 1995 and eight times the JD1.56 million recorded in the first half of 1994.

Samah Madani, the company's general manager, told the Jordan Times that sales revenue shot up from JD97.64 million (\$141.88 million) recorded in mid-1995 to JD117.81 million (\$167.64 million) at the end of June 1996.

Exports of raw phosphate increased by 198,230 tonnes as the total during the first half of this year reached 2,040,870 tonnes (1,842,640 tonnes at the end of June 1995). Sales of DAP fertilizers rose from 283,593 tonnes in mid-1995 to 330,589 tonnes in mid-1996.

Quantities of raw phosphate used in the fertilizer complex during the first six months of 1996 amounted to 577,390 tonnes compared to 488,476 tonnes for the same period in 1995.

On the production side, output of raw phosphate reached 2,547,332 tonnes (2,415,253 tonnes in 1995) whereas production of DAP fertilizers was 356,866 tonnes.

Th Jordan Phosphate Mines Company earned a total of JD226.22 million from sales during the whole of 1995 and the net profit for the year was about JD15.5 million. However, the shareholders opted not to distribute dividends but rather to settle income tax debts for previous years and consolidate the obligatory and voluntary reserves by JD3.2 million and the special fund by JD960,000.

According to the 1995 profit and loss statement the net sales were 18 per cent or JD34.52 million higher than the amount recorded in 1994. Gross profit was 29.7 per cent higher, from JD63 million in 1994 to JD81.7 million in 1995.

At the end of 1995 the company's total assets amounted to JD387.54 million (JD348.13 million in 1994) of which JD161.8 million were current assets. According to the annual report the high mining fees imposed by the government are preventing the company from selling to many international markets because of stiff competition from other world producers. Another burden comes from high domestic transport costs.

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Business

A review of news from the Arabic press

Banks given names of 4,013 persons who are involved in bouncing cheques

**THE ASSOCIATION of Banks in Jordan has supplied its members with a list of names who are continuously writing cheques without having sufficient funds in their accounts. According to the association's 1995 annual report, the number of those persons whose cheques continue to bounce has increased by 17.4 per cent as an additional 540 names have been added to the list. The total number now stands at 4,013 names.

The list would help the banks to be careful in dealing with those persons on the one hand and to combat the phenomenon of bouncing cheques, on the other hand, as the phenomenon of bouncing cheques has become harmful on economic activi-

ties, especially the commercial and banking sectors, the association explained. Meanwhile, the Central Bank indicated in its latest Monthly Statistical Bulletin that the number of cheques that bounced in May 1996 was 37,000 cheques carrying JD 38 million value that is 29 per cent more than April 1996. The Central Bank bulletin showed that the number of bounced cheques has dropped by 8.3 per cent during the first five months of this year but the value of those (170,000) cheques that bounced was about JD 173.5 million, three per cent more than the same period during 1995 (Al Aswaj).

Saudis top Arab Gulf tourists to Jordan in first seven months of '96

**THE NUMBER of Arab Gulf tourists during the first seven months of this year increased by nine per cent as the total was 291,289 tourists compared to 268,104 tourists during the same period of 1995. Tourists from Saudi Arabia topped the list with a total of 237,508, 9.22 per cent more than the number in the first seven months of last year. In sec-

ond place were the Kuwaitis (26,704) followed by Bahrainis (11,514), Omanis (6,288) and nationals of the United Arab Emirates (5,739). The number of tourists from Qatar was 3,536. Tourists from other nationalities were as follows: Israelis (66,660), Americans (67,198), Europeans (161,152) and other countries (25,514) (Al Dustour).

REUTERS • REUTERS •

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.4785	0.6425	1.1930	108.20	1.3692	1509.47	1.8565	5.0525	
DE Mark	0.6764		0.4343	0.8068	73.17	0.9258	1020.60	1.1203	3.4167
GB Sterling	1.5565	1.5565		1.8643	168.38	2.1312	2349.49	2.5783	7.8642
CH Franc	0.8382	123.88	0.5381		90.67	1.1472	1264.74	138.63	4.2333
JP Yen	0.0092	1.3658	0.5933	1.1021		1.2548	13.94	153.03	4.6674
CA Dollar	0.7304	1.0848	0.4595	0.8774	1.26		1104.75	1.2175	3.6987
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9782	0.4254	0.0780	1396.84	0.9068		10.97	3.3463
NL Guilder	0.0037	86.23	0.3876	72.01	85.27	0.8263	910.97		3.0492
FR Franc	0.1979	0.2926	0.1271	23.6097	21.39	0.2710	32.78	32.7800	

Metal Prices		Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)	
Metal	Offer	Period	Month
Gold (oz's)	388.2	1 - 3	5.53
Silver (oz's)	5.21	3 - 6	5.53
Platinum (oz's)	399.55	6 - 9	5.53
AE (3 Months)	1479	9 - 12	5.53
CU (3 Months)	1945	12 - 15	5.53
Zinc (3 Months)	1021	15 - 18	5.53
Lead (3 Months)	805	18 - 21	5.53
NI (3 Months)	7415	21 - 24	5.53

Energy		JOD Cross Rates	
Commodity	Delivery	Currency	Buy
Coffee (oz's)	127.5	US Dollar	0.708
Cocoa (oz's)	1441	GB Sterling	1.101
Sugar (oz's)	372	DE Mark	0.4763
Wheat (oz's)	185	CH Franc	0.5927
Soya (oz's)	23.5	FR Franc	0.14
Tea (oz's)	112	JP Yen	0.6533
Barley (oz's)	3.5	NL Guilder	0.4289
Rice (oz's)	420	IT Lira	0.4685

Turkish drug firms seek Iraqi deals

BAGHDAD (R) — Turkish pharmaceutical firms displayed their products in Baghdad Sunday in their first such exhibition since sanctions were clamped on Iraq in 1990.

The fair is the latest bid by Turkey to win the largest portion of funds that will emanate from Iraq's partial oil sales deal with the U.N., expected to go into effect in September.

"About 26 companies are taking part. All ready to strike deals to supply Iraq with medicines and medical supplies," said Samah Hamdan, a Jordanian middleman supplying both Iraq and Jordan with Turkish drugs.

Of the \$2 billion worth of oil Iraq will be allowed to export in six months, \$210 million will be earmarked for medicines and medical supplies. Since Iraq signed the oil deal with U.N. in June, Turkish officials and businessmen have been flocking to Baghdad in the hope of getting the lion's share of the \$1.3 billion that will be available to Iraq after deducting 1991 Gulf war reparations and other U.N. costs.

The official press reported that representatives of Canadian and Greek companies were also in Baghdad seeking deals.

Latif Oguz Kester of Fakco, a Turkish medicines manufacturer, said he used to export \$30 million worth of drugs and medical supplies to Iraq before U.N. trade sanctions were imposed on Iraq for invading Kuwait in 1990.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
BANKING MARKET									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 25/08/1996									
PART 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
250,000	ARAB BANK	12.1	1.38	2	40	9850	222.00	221.25	-0.75
3,800	BANK OF JORDAN	10.8	0.00	1	2,500	7500	1.05	1.00	-0.05
1,110	MID. EAST INV. BK.	88.5	0.00	1	500	440	90	88	-0.02
2,700	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	6.8	0.00	1	700	1505	2.15	2.13	-0.02
5,740	THE HOUSING BK.	12.3	3.02	3	700	3655	4.40	4.37	-0.03
3,040	JOR. KUNAITS BANK	19.4	0.00	6	1270	3402	2.48	2.46	-0.02
1,240	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	16.7	0.00	2	400	3870	9.1	9.0	-0.1
4,160	UNION BK. INV. INV.	9	0.00	2	1000	4050	4.44	4.43	-0.01
3,480	SECT. IN. INV. (MUTUAL)	1.8	0.00	2	350	415	2.40	2.36	-0.04
1,090	AMMAN BANK INV.	9	0.00	2	514	2162	4.60	4.60	0.00
5,850	AMMAN BANKING CO.	23.6	0.00	2	514	2162	4.60	4.60	0.00
BANK SECTOR TOTALS									
2,910	JOR. FRESH INVR.	6.1	9.26	4	1300	2811	2.17	2.16	-0.01
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS									
1,900	JOR. KUNAITS BANK	19.4	0.00	6	1270	3402	2.48	2.46	-0.02
2,800	UNION BK. INV. INV.	9	0.00	2	1000	4050	4.		
1,170	SECT. IN. INV. (MUTUAL)	1.8	0.00	2	350	415	2.40	2.36	-0.04
2,160	MID. EAST INV. BK.	88.5	0.00	1	500	440	90	88	-0.02
1,260	JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	16.7	0.00	2	400	3870	9.1	9.0	-0.1
2,460	MID. EAST INV. BK.	88.5	0.00	1	500	440	90	88	-0.02
1,380	SECT. IN. INV. (MUTUAL)	1.8	0.00	2	350	415	2.40	2.36	-0.04
2,430	UNION BK. INV. INV.	9	0.00	2	1000	4050	4.		
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS									
26,620	JOR. TOBACCO & CIG.	17.4	3.46	4	1510	32173	22.80	21.66	-1.14
1,260	ATTAJIRAH	9.5	0.00	2	1375	2572	1.19	1.10	-0.09
1,770	JOR. COMEST. FACT.	16.8	3.46	4	1400	14000	8.27	7.28	-0.99
3,560	JOR. SUGAR & SUGAR	20.8	0.00	3	399	1102	2.77	2.77	0.00
5,960	ARAB TOBACCO CO.	19.7	3.85	2	600	3322	5.50	5.20	-0.30
40,550	JOR. PETROL REF. & MARK.	8.4	7	100	7	100	3.30	3.25	-0.05
7,600	JORDAN SUGAR	17.4	3.46	4	1510	32173	22.80	21.66	-1.14
2,100	JORDAN SUGAR	17.4	3.46	4	1510	32173	22.80	21.66	-1.14
1,800	JORDAN SUGAR	17.4	3.46	4	1510	32173	22.80	21.66	-1.14
1,740	JORDAN SUGAR	17.4	3.46	4	1510	32173	22.80	21.66	-1.14
1,800	JORDAN SUGAR	17.4	3.46	4	1510	32173	22.80	21.66	-1.14
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Finnish rally driver Juha Kankkunen leads in his Toyota during the second day of the Thousands Lakes Rally in Jyväskylä. Four-time world champion Kankkunen extended his lead to 42 seconds in a day that saw him almost crash twice. Current world leader Colin McRae of Britain ended a bad week by crashing out earlier in the day (Reuters photo)

Makinen fastest at 1,000 lakes rally

JYVASKYLA, Finland (R) — A relentless attack by Finn Tommi Makinen all but wiped out Juha Kankkunen's lead on the second day of the 1,000 Lakes Rally, sixth round of the World Championship, on Sunday.

Makinen set fastest times

in the day's first six stages in his Mitsubishi to cut his compatriot's lead from 42 seconds to eight, despite nearly smashing the front of his car on a high-speed jump.

"I can go a bit faster but it's too much of a risk," Makinen said.

Toyota driver Kankkunen was suffering from an upset stomach and was running first — sweeping the surface free of gravel for his rivals just as Makinen did on Saturday.

A fierce battle developed for third place between Finns Marcus Gronholm and Jarmo Kytölehto and Subaru driver Kenneth Eriksson.

Eriksson had to call on a chiropractor after damaging his back on a flat-out jump. Spain's double world champion Carlos Sainz climbed to seventh in his factory-entered Ford Escort when Finn Harri Rovanpera rolled his privately-entered version on stage 17.

The 1,452-km rally finishes on Monday.

Dutch captain ends international career

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch soccer captain Danny Blind has decided to end his international career. Ajax spokesman David Endt said on Sunday.

Endt told Dutch news agency ANP that Blind, 35, would no longer be available for selection for the national squad.

The Ajax defender, who led the Netherlands into the quarter-finals at June's European Championship finals in England, had decided to devote his attention to playing for his Amsterdam club, Endt said.

Blind, who played in the 1990 World Cup and the 1992 European Championship, was capped 42 times for the Netherlands.

Furious Ginola ready to leave struggling Newcastle

LONDON (AFP) — Newcastle's French star David Ginola is poised to quit the Premiership side after he launched a scathing attack on manager Kevin Keegan.

As Newcastle struggle to find the form that had them fighting for the championship last season, Ginola is upset over the way he is being asked to play.

"I spend more time defending than I do attacking," complained the Frenchman who has been linked to both Arsenal and Barcelona.

"I want to give my best but Newcastle's present system just doesn't suit me," he added.

Soon to be named Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has made no secret of his appreciation of Ginola's skills and he refuses to rule out the possibility of signing him.

Ginola's agent Olivier Godalier said Keegan was on the brink of selling the 29-year-old winger to Barcelona last month.

"I spoke directly with Keegan and we discussed the financial side," says Godalier. "When someone starts putting up the price you know they are willing to do business."

"Now Arsene Wenger is singing David's praises and closely monitoring his progress."

Newcastle have spent nearly 60 million pounds over the past two years in their attempt to build a championship winning

side but their hopes this season were severely dented after a crushing 2-1 defeat at home to Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday.

The defeat left Newcastle with a miserable three points from three games and earned the players a bitter outburst from Keegan.

"That's probably the worst performance in my reign as manager," moaned Keegan. "Our performances so far this season have been poor and we will have to start soon if we want to win anything."

"At the moment everyone has got the right to say we look a poor side. The only way we can stop goals at the moment is to board them up."

"You can't legislate for the two goals we've conceded — they were down to sloppy defending."

"In the end we were committing suicide out there and we could have got beaten by more," he added.

Newcastle chairman Sir John Hall, who has bankrolled the club's spending spree, is reported to have had a crisis meeting with Keegan and his assistant Terry McDermott.

According to the Sunday Mirror, hall told Keegan that he wanted trophies this season, not entertaining football.

Braves rally to beat Cubs

ATLANTA (R) — Fred McGriff went 5-for-5 and homered twice, including a three-run blast with two out in the bottom of the ninth inning that lifted the Atlanta Braves to a 6-5 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Saturday.

"I was just trying to hang in there and hit it up the middle," said McGriff about his homer in the ninth. "I was just looking for the ball, trying to stay on it."

Brad Clontz (6-2) picked up the win in relief for Atlanta, which has won 11 of its last 13 games.

In Colorado, Mark Thompson threw an eight-hitter for his third complete game and Ellis Burks homered and drove in three runs as the Colorado Rockies beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 9-3.

Vinny Castilla and Dante Bichette each added two RBI for Colorado, which improved the Major League's best home mark to 44-20.

At Florida, Kevin Brown scattered seven hits over eight innings and Kurt Abbott snapped a six-inning tie with a two-run double as the Florida Marlins defeated the tired Cincinnati Reds 5-3.

The Marlins won for just



The Atlanta Braves catcher Javy Lopez tags out Chicago Cubs Luis Gonzalez at home plate after Gonzalez tried to score from second off of a Dave Mälgäden single in the first inning August 24 at Fulton County Stadium (Reuters photo)

the third time in nine games, taking advantage of a Reds' team that has not had a day off since August 8th and was playing its fourth game in 43 hours.

In Los Angeles, Tom Candiotti allowed two runs in seven innings and singled home the go-ahead run and Mike Piazza and Todd Hollandsworth drove in two runs apiece as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the New York Mets 7-5.

Candiotti (8-9) walked one, allowed five hits and struck out a season-high eight batters for Los Angeles, which has won 10

of its last 14 games.

In San Diego, Joey Hamilton allowed two hits over seven innings and Rickey Henderson hit his Major League-record 69th leadoff homer as the San Diego Padres defeated the Philadelphia Phillies 7-1 for their fifth win in six games.

Hamilton (12-7) won his second straight start, allowing just a sixth-inning run and a pair of singles.

In San Francisco, Pedro Martinez allowed two hits in eight innings and David Segui drove in two runs as the Montreal Expos shut out the San Francisco Giants 3-

0 for their third straight win. Martinez (11-7), who lasted just 1-1/3 innings in his last start against San Diego five days ago, pitched eight-plus innings, walking four and striking out 10.

In Houston, Orlando Miller's two-run homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth off Todd Stortlemyre gave the Houston Astros a 3-1 win over the St. Louis Cardinals and left the teams in a virtual tie for the lead in the NL Central Division.

Shane Reynolds (16-6) fired a five-hitter, walking one and striking out six.

Orioles sneak past Angels; Brewers down Indians

BALTIMORE (R) — Rafael Palmeiro's two-out single in the sixth inning scored Roberto Alomar with the go-ahead run as the Baltimore Orioles rallied past the California Angels 5-4 and took over the American League's wild-card berth on Saturday.

The Orioles trailed 4-3 when pinch-hitter Mike Devereaux led off the sixth with a triple against reliever Kyle Abbott (0-1) and scored the tying run on Alomar's single. After Brady Anderson sacrificed, Palmeiro hit the first pitch into right field for a single, scoring Alomar.

In Boston, former Mariner Darren Bragg's first career grand slam in the sixth inning off reliever Randy Johnson lifted the Boston Red Sox to their fifth win in six games, a 9-5 victory over Seattle.

"Just one of those things. I was just trying to make contact," said Bragg. "The bases were loaded and I had two strikes. I was just trying to put the ball in play. I got the good part of the bat on it and it carried out."

In Cleveland, Kevin Seitzer's two-out single in the top of the 10th brought home David Hulse with the winning run as the Milwaukee Brewers sent the Cleveland Indians to their third straight extra-inning defeat 4-3.

Bob Wickman (5-1), acquired from the New York Yankees on Friday, earned the win in his Milwaukee debut despite allowing the tying run in the eighth inning.

At Minnesota, Marty Cordova and Matt Lawton hit solo homers and Frankie Rodriguez allowed six hits over seven innings

to earn his first win as a starter in a month as the Minnesota Twins held on to beat the Texas Rangers 6-5.

"Yeah, you know it's fun, it's always fun when you've got a chance to go to the ballpark and win a game that's important," said Rodriguez. "Every game should be important, but it's a little more important now."

In New York, Wally Whitehurst allowed two runs over seven innings for his first win in more than two years and Paul O'Neill's three-run double snapped a sixth-inning tie as the New York Yankees held on for a 5-4 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

Whitehurst, promoted from triple-A Columbus on Wednesday, allowed seven hits and struck out one without a walk. It was his first win since defeating

the St. Louis Cardinals on May 28th, 1994 when he was with the San Diego Padres.

In Kansas City, Jose Rosado came within one out of his third complete game and Michael Tucker homered and drove in three runs as the Kansas City Royals broke a six-game losing streak with a 9-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers in a battle of cellar-dwellers.

Rosado (5-3) allowed two runs — one earned — and seven hits over 8-2/3 innings with three walks and six strikeouts. In his last four starts, the 21-year-old left-hander has given up only four earned runs in 29-2/3 innings.

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Invitation to Tender (141/96)
The Prequalification of Contractors for the Construction of Al-Adasiya Storage Dam
International Contractors in joint venture with:
a- Jordanian contractors classified by the Government Tenders Directorate (G.T.D.) as first grade in water and sewerage or in roads/bridge and culvert concrete.
b- Regional contractors.
willing to participate in the above tender are invited to collect tender documents as follows:
1- The share of the local contractors shall be at least 50 per cent of the total contract value.
2- A duly legalised joint venture agreement between all the partners must be lodged with the prequalification documents.
3- All given information must be correct and accurate, upon pains of responsibility.
4- The international contractors shall comply with the law of the Jordanian Engineers Association and Jordanian Construction Contractors Association regarding registration.
5- The deadline set for the purchase of tender documents shall be on Monday, September 2, 1996.
6- The prequalification proposals shall be submitted at the G.T.D. by no later than Tuesday, September 10, 1996.
Chairman of the Central Tenders Committee
Director General of the Government Tenders Directorate
Eng. Naser Falah Madadhah

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Qualified applicants should submit an application form (available at the Embassy gate) to the Personnel Officer prior to September 8, 1996.

<p>PHILADELPHIA TEL: 634144</p> <p>BABE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15</p> <p>The American President Shows: 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>PLAZA TEL: 688238</p> <p>The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahamad Zaki...in Naser 56 (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00</p>	<p>CONCORD TEL: 677420</p> <p>CONCORD "1" MONKEY TROUBLE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>CONCORD "2" Ahamad Zaki...in Naser 56 (Arabic) Shows: 12:00, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45</p>	<p>Amman Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275</p> <p>Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled</p> <p>Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimeh & Hussein Tubeishat play starts 8:30 p.m</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155</p> <p>PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155-640155</p>
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VS IN BRIEF

isoners on hunger strike

(AFP) — Hundreds of prisoners have gone on hunger strike in protest against the new law on the right of habeas corpus, new papers said on Sunday. The strike is the latest in a series of protests by a few hundred prisoners in the country's jails, who are demanding better food and health treatment by protesting against the new law. The strike is the latest in a series of protests by a few hundred prisoners in the country's jails, who are demanding better food and health treatment by protesting against the new law.

ivate visit to Morocco

Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres is scheduled to visit Morocco on Sunday. The visit is part of a series of diplomatic efforts to improve relations between Israel and Arab states. Peres is expected to meet with Moroccan officials and discuss the ongoing peace process in the Middle East.

ace minister to visit China

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashami is scheduled to visit China on Sunday. The visit is part of a series of diplomatic efforts to strengthen ties between Iran and China. Mohtashami is expected to meet with Chinese officials and discuss the ongoing situation in the Middle East.

businessmen seek Iraq deal

Canadian businessmen are seeking a deal with Iraq to build a new oil refinery. The deal is part of a series of efforts to improve relations between Canada and Iraq. The businessmen are expected to meet with Iraqi officials to discuss the details of the deal.



Louise Sauvage of Australia pumps her fist as she leaves the track after winning the gold medal in the women's 400m T-53 final at the Paralympics in Atlanta. Sauvage finished with a new Paralympic record of 54.96 and winning her fourth gold medal of the games (Reuters photo)

Ferreira reaches Canadian Open final

TORONTO (R) — Third-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa outduelled seventh-seeded Todd Martin of the United States 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the semifinals of the \$2 million Canadian Open on Saturday. Ferreira will meet unseeded Todd Woodbridge of Australia in the final.

The 43rd-ranked Aussie easily handled an uninspired Marcelo Rios of Chile, the fourth seed, 6-0, 6-3 in Saturday's other semifinal. Ferreira, ranked 10th in the world, served for the match at 5-4 in the third set only to have the 13th-ranked Martin save a match point and then win the game when Ferreira hit a forehand long. But the 24-year-old South African immediately broke back and served out the final game at a loss of only one point.

"I thought I played very solid on my serve and I made him play a lot of balls on his, especially when he missed his first serve," Ferreira said. Martin's aggressive hitting and net play dominated the early part of the match, but Ferreira's passing shots, particularly his forehand, picked up and clearly became intimidating for Martin. The tall American actually retreated to the baseline several times after hitting approach shots in the third set.

The reason I lost is that I probably hit a few too many times to his forehand, Martin said. "It's difficult when three quarters of the court is open not to hit there, and then to still lose the point. When I served for the match at 5-5 (in the third set) I didn't get enough first serves in." Rios, ranked 11th, didn't give Woodbridge much of a match. The Aussie won the first set in just 24 minutes and the second in 29. Rios did break Woodbridge's serve in the fifth game of the second set to take a 3-2 lead.

Schumacher wins Belgian GP

SPA-FRANCOCHAMPS, Belgium (AFP) — Michael Schumacher restored Ferrari's battered pride here on Sunday when he won a sensational Belgian Grand Prix.

Jacques Villeneuve in his Williams Renault was second with Mika Hakkinen coming third in a McLaren Mercedes. Britain's Damon Hill, current leader in the race for the drivers' World Championship, finished fifth in the other Williams Renault.

Before the race, Hill was 17 points clear of Villeneuve, the only man who can take the title over him but by the end his lead had been reduced to only 13 points with three races left. But it was a stunning performance by Schumacher, who admitted afterwards that he nearly pulled out of the race half-way through after he damaged his steering.

"I was pushing hard early on, going over the curbs and bent my steering. I was close to stopping the race as I was a bit frightened," said the two-time world champion. But after being told by the pits that the steering would hold, the German continued flat out to collect his second Grand Prix of the season.

Villeneuve, who had closed to within less than a second of Schumacher suddenly backed off in the closing laps. "I was hearing some noises in the engine so I decided to lay back a little," explained the Canadian.

For Hill it was a nightmare race that could have cost him the championship. But Hill, who is reportedly demanding 10 million pounds from Williams for next season, clawed his way back up to sixth. When David Coulthard spun off and crashed his McLaren Mercedes into the tyre barrier Hill, driving his spare car, gratefully took the vacant spot and with it a much needed extra point.

The Englishman, who started on the front row alongside pole sitter Villeneuve, got a terrible start and quickly found himself in fourth place. Things got worse when Jos Verstappen in the arrows crashed heavily and the pace car came onto the track.

By the time the debris was removed and the race restarted Hill was back in 14th and looking out of the points altogether. But Hill, who is reportedly demanding 10 million pounds from Williams for next season, clawed his way back up to sixth. When David Coulthard spun off and crashed his McLaren Mercedes into the tyre barrier Hill, driving his spare car, gratefully took the vacant spot and with it a much needed extra point.

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Sanchez to meet Date in final

CARLSBAD, California (R) — Top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez nearly missed her wake up call but recovered in time to gain the final of the \$450,000 Toshiba Classic Saturday.

The fiery Spaniard spotted doubles partner and No. 3 seed Jana Novotna a one-set lead before bouncing the Czech star 1-6 6-2 6-3.

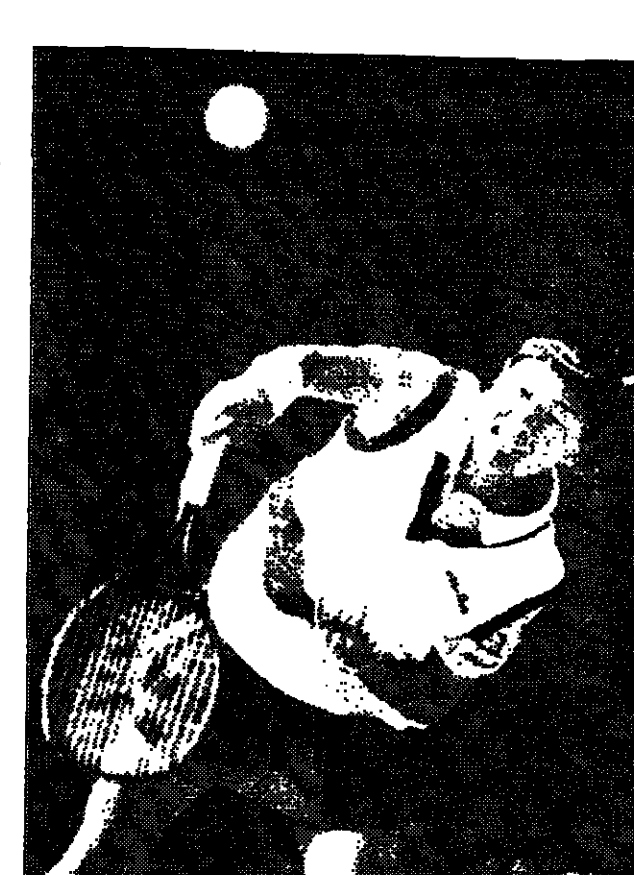
Sanchez Vicario will meet No. 4 Kimiko Date, who surprised defending champion Conchita Martinez of Spain 6-2 7-5, in the title match worth \$80,000 to the winner of the final hardcourt tuneup event before next week's U.S. Open in New York.

"Seems like I was still sleeping and then the alarm said, 'OK, hold on a second, wake up.' That's when I woke up," she laughed. "I definitely don't like to play at nine or 10 o'clock. But I fight until the end, and I am lucky to be in the final."

Sanchez Vicario sleepwalked through the first-set drubbing before awakening with her pesky ground game to get past the world's No. 6 ranked player for the fourth time this year without a loss.

While Sanchez Vicario was snapping out of her funk, Novotna was falling further into fatigue after playing her second match in 12 hours due to television scheduling and a grueling late night three-set victory over France's Sandrine Testud.

Novotna was irritated but refused to blame the poor scheduling as an excuse. "Definitely not a great schedule to play a first match at 10 a.m.," she said. "No matter how fit you are the body needs to recover. If you have less than 12 hours to recover before the next match, it's not enough. That's what basically happened to me. I started really well, got tired



Japan's Kimiko Date

and could never get out of it. "I understand television has its needs and they want to have certain players on live," she said. "It happens and as a top player you have to be able to deal with everything. That's what I am and I have no complaints about it."

"Arantxa is a great athlete. She can run down so many balls and that makes it really difficult. Against other players a point would be over. But she still can get to the point and give you the high ball back. You have to start all over again. So it's mentally difficult to play her because she can last a long time and she's such a good runner."

The deciding third set was levelled until Sanchez Vicario slammed an overhead winner for a break and a 4-3 lead. At 5-3 she broke again to "claim" the hard-fought victory. "I won because I have guts and confidence in myself," said Sanchez Vicario. "It was a very close match. Definitely I

had to fight and be able to come with good shots to win."

Date's upset of the third ranked Martinez dashed the hopes of an all-Spanish final.

"She was definitely the better player today," said Martinez, the 1994 Wimbledon champion. "I was on the defensive all the time. I wanted to attack. I tried to be very aggressive, but I missed a lot of forehands and that's my strength."

Date sailed through the first set taking the last three games against the error-prone Spaniard during the 77-minute sweep.

Martinez offered a tougher challenge in the next set, taking a 5-4 lead. Date held and broke for 6-5 before holding at love for the victory.

"When Conchita came back to 4-4, I was a little uptight," said Date, ranked No. 9 in the world. But I felt I was in good form and could keep myself from going to pieces."

"I had my chances in the second set, but I played badly at 5-4," said Martinez, who fell to 2-6 lifetime against Date.

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دائرة العطاءات الحكومية
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

Invitation to Tender Central Tender #139/96: Study, Design and Preparation of Tender Documents for the Construction of a New Industrial Jetty at Wadi Two in Aqaba

International consultants specialised in the design of ports in association with local consultants qualified by the Government Tenders Directorate (G.T.D.) as Grade A in buildings or Grade A in roads are invited to collect tender documents as follows:

- 1- Scope of work: Study, design and preparation of tender documents for the construction of a new industrial jetty consisting of two berths with all related facilities.
- 2- Proposals with reservation to the tender conditions shall be disqualified.
- 3- The tenderers are to fill in the unit prices in words in addition to numbers.
- 4- The share of the local consultant shall be 20 per cent of the works value. His scope of work and manpower shall be clearly described in the technical proposal. The tenderers are to submit an association agreement duly legalised by a notary public whereby the international consultant shall be the leader of the association. This agreement shall be submitted with the technical proposal. The tenderer shall submit a written pledge of commitment to the effect upon purchase of tender documents.
- 5- Tender documents are available at the G.T.D., P.O. Box 1220, Tel.: 606757, Fax: 606751 for a non-refundable fee of JD(100) per set.
- 6- The tenders shall be submitted in sealed envelopes as follows:
 - a. The first envelope contains the technical proposal and bears the phrase "Technical proposal," clearly written.
 - b. The second envelope contains the financial proposal and bears the phrase "Financial proposal," clearly written.
 - c. The third envelope contains both the above mentioned envelopes.
- 7- The tenderer shall write clearly on the envelope his name and address and the tender name and number.
- 8- The technical proposals shall first be opened and evaluated. The financial proposals of disqualified bidders shall be returned unopened to them.
- 9- Tender documents can be procured by:
 - a. The International consultant via a representative with written authorisation.
 - b. The local consultant permitted to participate in the tender for and on behalf of the international consultant with whom he wishes to form an association.
- 8- A bid bond as per form B-3, of JD(4,000) shall be submitted along with the technical proposal.
- 9- The international consultant shall comply with the law of the Jordanian Engineers Association concerning registration.
- 10- The last date set for the purchase of tender documents is September 7, 1996.
- 11- A site visit will commence from the Port Corporation in Aqaba at 0900 hours on September 9, 1996. The deadline for inquiries regarding the tender shall be on September 12, 1996.
- 12- Bids are to be submitted to the G.T.D. not later than 1300 hours on September 28, 1996.

Chairman of the Central Tenders Committee
Directorate General of the Government
Tenders Directorate
Eng. Naser Fahad Madadha

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1124	20.00	1125	20.00
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Israel deploys mobile homes in settlements

Palestinians angrily denounce move as aimed at creating facts that will affect peace negotiations

OFRA, occupied West Bank (AFP) — Israel began installing mobile homes in two West Bank settlements on Sunday in the first concrete move to expand the Jewish colonies since 1992, sparking angry condemnation from Palestinian officials.

"The defence ministry has begun implementing its decision to dispatch 300 mobile homes to the settlements," said Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the coordinator of Israeli activities in the Palestinian territories.

He said the trailers would "serve mostly for educational and administrative purposes" and not for housing.

Officials with the Council of Jewish Settlements in the West Bank said six of the mobile trailers were set up Sunday at Ofra, near Ramallah in the central West Bank, and eight in Bet Hagai outside Hebron in the south.

They were the first authorised structures put up in the Jewish settlements since the previous Labour government froze most construction in Jewish colonies inside the Palestinian territories in 1992.

The right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Aug. 2 that it was lifting the restrictions on expanding the settlements, which house some 140,000 Jews amid the territories' two million Palestinian residents.

So far the expansion has been limited to the plans to install 300 mobile homes to serve as classrooms and offices, but settlers have demanded permission

to build tens of thousands of new housing units.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) reacted with outrage to the move, saying it violated the Oslo peace accords under which the future of Jewish settlements was to be decided in negotiations on a final peace settlement for Palestinian lands.

Senior Palestinian officials were equally furious when questioned about the trailers installed Sunday at Ofra and Bet Hagai.

"My reaction is that of indignation and anxiety that this government is just procrastinating to try to create facts on the ground that will effect throughout the peace process," said Nabil Shaath, the official in charge of international relations in the PNA.

Hanan Ashrawi, the PNA minister of higher education, warned that Palestinians were going to react on the ground to the new "people concerned are going to protect their land," she said.

"These mobile units are not just temporary structures, they are in a way a preparation for further expansion, for increased settlement activities and as such they violate any possibility of a genuine peace in the future."

The Palestinian National Authority cabinet and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee decided at a meeting in Gaza City on Saturday night to step up support for popular resistance to settlement activity by rejecting Israeli land confiscation moves, notably to build new roads to settlements.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oman's minister visits S. Africa

MUSCAT (AFP) — Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf Ben Alawi Ben Abdallah left Muscat Sunday for South Africa to discuss boosting economic cooperation among Indian Ocean nations, officials said. Oman is promoting the project which is scheduled to be launched when Oman, India, South Africa, Mauritius, Kenya, Singapore, Australia, Mozambique and several other countries meet in Mauritius next month. Oman, a non-OPEC oil producer which also has large gas reserves, said there are prospects for cooperation between these countries as some offer competent and cheap labour and others provide natural resources. Mr. Alawi is to visit Mozambique after South Africa.

24 dead in Turkey clashes

ANKARA (AFP) — Twenty-four Turkish troops and Kurds have died in clashes between government troops and rebels in southeast Turkey, Anadolu news agency reported Sunday, citing an official communiqué. Fourteen Kurdish separatists of the banned Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) were killed Saturday by government troops in the Semdinli region, and two pro-government Kurdish militiamen and four government troops also died in the clashes. Four other PKK rebels were killed in the Van and Bingöl regions. The Kurdish uprising in eastern Turkey has claimed more than 22,000 lives among the separatists, government troops and civilians since it began in 1984.

Iran arrests 'counter-revolutionaries'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian intelligence services have arrested the members of a "counter-revolutionary" group preparing to bomb public buildings in northern Iran, the Akhbar newspaper reported Sunday. An unidentified intelligence official was cited by the newspaper as saying those arrested belonged to Kaveh, a group named from a character in the Shahnamah, or Book of the Kings, of Ferdowsi, one of the greatest poets of ancient Persia. "The members of this group recently distributed leaflets in cities in Mazandaran province" on the Caspian Sea, calling for "the people to revolt," an Iranian official said. He said the group planned to bomb banks and other public buildings, the newspaper reported. The intelligence services regularly arrest people accused of spying and of "counter-revolutionary" activities in Iran.

15 bombs placed at foot of Istanbul bridge

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Police said Sunday they had discovered and defused 14 bombs placed at the foot of the Unkapani bridge linking Istanbul across the Golden Horn after another device went off causing minor damage. In a narrow escape, a technical fault caused one bomb to go off first in the early hours, scuppering plans for all the explosives linked by a timing device to go off simultaneously. The blast caused by six kilograms of dynamite would have caused major damage and led to casualties among the people travelling across the bridge in vehicles, police added.

U.S. human rights activist arrested in Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An American activist working for Human Rights Watch in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has been arrested by the Israeli authorities, government press spokesman Moshe Fugel said Sunday. "Beshar Tariyeh was arrested for questioning last Monday at his parents house in Majd Al-Shams, the village where he was born in the Golan Heights," the plateau seized from Syria in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Fugel told AFP. He did not say whether Tariyeh, arrested three days before he was due to return to the United States, had been charged with any offence. Mr. Tariyeh started working for the U.S. human rights organisation in the occupied territories on his arrival in Israel in June, and continued through to mid-July when he went to his parents' Golan home to help with the apple harvest. Majd Al Shams is the largest of four towns in the Golan where some 17,000 Druze, nearly all loyal to Damascus, continue to live.

Pakistani robber beheaded in Mecca

RIYADH (AP) — A Pakistani man convicted of theft and running a gang of outlaws was publicly beheaded Sunday in the holy city of Mecca, an interior ministry statement said. It said Shabeer Ahmed Mohammed Jaleel was the mastermind of a gang that broke into houses and robbed them. The statement said an unspecified number of gang members were also arrested and sentenced to whippings. It did not say whether the outlaws lived in Mecca, Islam's holiest city. Jaleel's execution raised the number of people beheaded in the desert kingdom this year to 30.

Arafat orders release of 17 militants

GAZA CITY (AFP) —

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has ordered 17 militants freed from West Bank prisons, pursuing a policy of gradually releasing activists jailed after a spate of suicide bombings in Israel six months ago, a Palestinian newspaper reported Sunday.

The daily Al-Ayyam, considered close to Arafat's Palestinian Authority, said the 17 detainees were members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad.

They were being held in the northern town of Jenin. The Palestinian Authority Friday released a senior Hamas leader, Sheikh Hassan Yusuf, who had been held for six months in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

It also freed Mohammad Al Hindi, a top official in the Islamic Jihad from the Gaza Strip.

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for four suicide bombings in late February and March which killed 58 people plus the bombers and dealt a crippling blow to the peace process with Israel.

The Palestinian Authority subsequently arrested nearly 900 militants in territories under its control in Gaza and the West Bank, while Israel arrested hundreds more.

The Palestinians are believed to still be holding about 300 of the militants and Attorney General Khaled Al-Kidra has said those who have no evidence of wrongdoing against them will be released.

The right-wing Israeli government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the other hand has insisted the Palestinians maintain a hard line with the Islamic opponents of peace with Israel as a main condition for pursuing the autonomy process.

A new condition that Mr. Netanyahu attached recently was the closure of all offices linked to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Arab East Jerusalem.

Israel Radio and Palestinian officials said Sunday that the PNA closed down two of the offices in a bid to meet the condition.

Mr. Netanyahu has been quoted as saying he wanted to resume the peace negotiations with the Palestinians "very soon."



A voter gestures with his walking stick as he casts his ballot in the northern port of Tripoli in the second round of parliamentary elections on Sunday (Reuters photo)

Candidates complain of voting irregularities in north Lebanon

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (AFP)

Several candidates, including former ministers, filed complaints about voting irregularities several hours after legislative elections opened Sunday in northern Lebanon.

Former ministers Boutros Harb and Mikhail Daher, both Christians, and outgoing Muslim Deputy Assad Harnush said that lists of voters published by the election office differed from the ones they received.

They added that most of the lists were the same as the ones used in the 1992 legislative elections.

Between 1992 and 1996 tens of thousands of people residing in Lebanon for years received Lebanese citizenship. Nearly 10,000 of these new citizens live in northern Lebanon.

Witnesses said the fact voter registration was being done by hand, not computer, together with a lack of voting registration cards was causing chaos at voting booths.

One voter, Boutros Yunes, 56, could not vote because his date of birth was listed

as 1840. "Dead people continue to vote," candidate Mosbah Ahdab said.

A Muslim candidate, Faysal Malawi, told journalists that he could not vote either because his name was not on the list even though his candidacy had been approved by the Interior Ministry.

Being a registered voter is a precondition for running for office.

A number of witnesses said that the amount of errors on the voter lists had taken on worrying proportions.

Such irregularities also appeared in the first phase of legislative elections on Aug. 18 in the Christian stronghold of Mount Lebanon, which took place just three days after a new electoral law was hastily passed.

The elections are being held region by region on five successive Sundays.

The new law carved Mount Lebanon into six voting districts, diluting its anti-Syrian vote.

Five main groups are con-

testing in northern Lebanon.

The apparent front-running coalition is led by former Prime Minister Omar Karami, a Sunni Muslim, former minister Suleiman Franjiyeh, a pro-Syrian Christian, and billionaire businessman Issam Fares, a Greek Orthodox Christian.

Although they oppose pro-Syrian Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, they are allied with candidates ideologically close to Syria, such as those from the Lebanese branch of the Baath Party, the ruling party in Syria, and those from the Syrian National Social Party.

The parliamentary seats are divided along religious lines. North Lebanon elects 28 members of parliament of whom 11 must be Sunni Muslim, two Alawite, a sect in power in Syria, nine Christian Maronite and six Greek orthodox.

Nationwide, there are 1,320 candidates running for the parliament's 128 seats.

Elections will be held Sept. 1 in Beirut, Sept. 8 in South Lebanon and Sept. 15 in the Bekaa Valley.

Husseini visits Syria to discuss Jerusalem, peace

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein was due to arrive here late Sunday to discuss with Syrian and Palestinian officials recent developments in the Middle East peace process.

A Palestinian official said Mr. Hussein, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member and responsible for Jerusalem affairs, would discuss with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa Israel's "destruction and Judaisation measures of Jerusalem as a severe blow to the peace process."

Anwar Abdul Hadi, information consultant for PLO foreign affairs chief Farouk Kaddoumi, accused Israel of putting obstacles before the peace, saying that could destroy the whole process.

He said Mr. Hussein's talks would cover the policy of Israel's ruling Likud Party which he warned would lead to the "collapse of the whole peace process if (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu does not adhere to the land-for-peace principle, especially on the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian tracks."

Husseini will also exchange views with Khaled Al Fahoum, head of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, over the Palestinian situation following the election of Netanyahu's government which opposes the minimum conditions for peace, Mr. Abdul Hadi said.

Mr. Hussein would also discuss with Mr. Sharaa how to coordinate positions in preparation for the Jerusalem Committee meeting to be held in Morocco next month.

The Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) official television said Mr. Hussein was heading a delegation of Palestinians from Jerusalem and the visit would last several days.

Mr. Hussein's visit to Damascus marks another step in a recent rapprochement between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. Mr. Arafat visited Damascus in July, followed by Palestinian Agriculture Minister Abdul Jawad Saleh, who travelled to Syria early this month.

Egyptian police arrest militants on arrival from Syria, Lebanon

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian authorities arrested 43 militants from the armed militant group Jihad in July as they arrived in the country from Syria and Lebanon, police sources said Sunday.

The militants, who had been living in camps in Pakistan after fighting with the Afghan Mujahideen against the Soviet army in the 1980s, "infiltrated into Syria and Lebanon after the Pakistani government's decision to expel foreign nationals," said the source. The 43 Jihad members then travelled to Egypt where they were arrested in Cairo, Giza and the northern Nile Delta region, he added.

"They had arrived in Egypt to carry out attacks planned after they had secretly infiltrated into Syria and Lebanon," said the source, adding that the Lebanese and Syrian authorities knew nothing of the scheme.

He denied press reports published in July saying Syria was planning to extradite a group of Egyptian militants to Cairo.

He said the militants had confessed to police prosecutors that Jihad was behind the bombing of the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad in November last year which killed 17 people. The attack was claimed at the time by three groups: Jihad, Egypt's largest armed group the Gamaa Islamiyah, and the previously unknown International Justice Group.

Queen 'plans to vacate' Buckingham Palace

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth plans to vacate Buckingham Palace as part of her programme to update and improve the 1,000-year-old monarchy, a British newspaper said. The People, a popular tabloid weekly, said the queen and other members of the royal family would withdraw gradually from the imposing palace in the heart of London over the next few years. The building would become a year-round tourist attraction and office block for royal staff. A spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace dismissed the report. "It is pure speculation. We've not gone into any of the details of what has been outlined in the media during the week." Last week, British newspapers said giving up state subsidies, allowing the monarch to marry a Roman Catholic and changing the laws of succession to allow the oldest child — even if a girl — to take the throne, were among the options being considered.

Jackson won't be playing it again in Casablanca
CASABLANCA, Morocco (R) — American pop star Michael Jackson's Sept. 27 concert has been cancelled after authorities refused to give permission for it, the private Moroccan Television Channel 2M said. "Moroccan authorities did not give the green light for Michael Jackson's show but gave no explanation either," the Casablanca-based station said in its evening news bulletin. Jackson visited the city last month and said he wanted to perform there because it reminded him of the Hollywood movie Casablanca. A concert organiser said fears of large young crowds turning up could have led authorities to refuse the show.

Surfboards become hot collectables

WASHINGTON (R) — Vintage surfboards became hot collectables in the late 1980s, their value rising as baby boomers paid up for a piece of lost youth and museum curators eyed their beauty and cultural symbolism. Boards in top condition from around 1967 and earlier rose from garage sale giveaway prices to thousands of dollars today, especially those ridden by champions or shaped by craftsmen. The Malibu Perpetual Surfboard, made of redwood in 1948 in California, was retrieved from a wood pile in 1979 but is unavailable today at any price. Prices accelerated quickly for about five years but levelled off around 1994, though the rarest boards and ones in mint condition continue to appreciate.

British police get green light to use CS sprays

LONDON (AFP) — Home Secretary Michael Howard Wednesday authorised British police to use incapacitating CS spray for self-defence amid complaints by civil rights groups over long-term health risks from the sprays. The go-ahead followed six-month trials of the gas in 16 pilot areas around Britain. The gas temporarily disables an assailant by causing uncontrollable streaming of eyes and nose, eyelid spasms and breathing difficulties. Howard called CS gas "a dramatic improvement in police protective equipment." But John Wadsworth, director of the civil rights group Liberty, said, "we haven't established the long-term effects of the use of CS gas spray."

Sudanese plane hijacked to Cyprus

U.S. resident held in Israel